



Eich cyf/Your ref
Ein cyf/Our ref

Will McClean
Chief Officer for Education
Monmouthshire County Council
Innovation House
Wales 1
Magor
NP26 3DG

4 August 2017

Dear Will McClean,

Thank you for the time and effort you have put into this phase of Welsh education planning. With the launch of our *Cymraeg 2050* Strategy, this is a new and exciting time for all of us. To fulfil our vision for a million Welsh speakers by 2050, we need to make some radical and far reaching changes to the way we work as a government and how we plan Welsh medium education. We are on the cusp of significant change to the Welsh language and Welsh Government can not do this on its own.

You will know by now that I want changes to the way we plan for Welsh medium education and I want to do this with you so we can work together to provide Welsh medium education with a strong and resilient framework for growth.

I have considered your draft Welsh in Education Strategic Plan and I am pleased to note your commitment to Welsh language education. However, as you will know from discussions between our officials, I would suggest that the issues outlined below need to be addressed in the plan. I trust you agree that it's important that the authority takes ownership over its own plan. Therefore, can you address these issues and submit an amended plan I will then make the decision whether or not to approve that plan. Should your amended plan address the issues outlined in this letter then I would be minded to approve it.

Issues to be addressed

Below are the issues you need to address in your plan. We realise that in some cases, you will need to go through your own approval process, but we would ask if you could present you amended plan to us as soon as possible and no later than **29 September 2017**. This of course will be dependent on your consultation processes.

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1NA

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:
0300 0604400

Gohebiaeth.Alun.Davies@llyw.cymru
Correspondence.Alun.Davies@gov.wales

Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

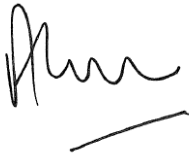
We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

It is for you to decide what constitutes fair and open consultation in terms of timescales. It is important that all those with an interest in Welsh medium education have an opportunity to contribute their views.

This feedback includes Aled Roberts' views and these are attached in full as annex 1.

- Ensure that targets are more ambitious reflecting the need to stimulate demand rather than just addressing current demand
- Identify how you will respond to short term pressures and future demand for Welsh medium places (how will this be addressed at both Welsh medium primaries and by development of additional provision?)
- Provide framework and timeframe to support latecomers and ensure marketing materials are available to parents
- Marketing and promotional materials are needed to raise awareness amongst parents that free transport is available to Welsh-medium education
- Set timetable and targets to undertake an Additional Learning Needs assessment

You have my assurance that my officials will provide any support, advice or guidance necessary.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alun', with a horizontal line underneath.

Alun Davies AC/AM

Gweinidog y Gymraeg a Dysgu Gydol Oes
Minister for Lifelong Learning and Welsh Language

MONMOUTHSHIRE

VISION

There is a clear vision for expanding Welsh medium provision within the authority although there is a need for more detail in terms of the steps to be taken with regard to the implementation of the vision.

OUTCOME 1

The targets in **Outcome 1** must be more ambitious although it is likely that these figures are based on projections of those who are already within the Welsh medium sector. It should focus on practical steps to deal with the relatively high percentage of children who transfer out of the Welsh medium pre-school sector. The targets agreed with Mudiad Meithrin to do so and also to extend the pre-school provision across the authority are to be welcomed.

The authority should ensure that an assessment of demand is completed prior to December 2018 when considering the need to decide on any capital plans. There is also a need to understand the authority's plans in relation to the current pressures on the provision in Abergavenny and any plans for Monmouth. Although there is capacity within Ysgol y Ffin the authority acknowledges that the school is filling within the early years and any plans should be based on increasing capacity in order to consciously increase demand rather than responding proactively to pressure.

There is a need for the WESP to offer a timetable regarding the availability of promotional materials for Welsh medium education across the authority. The materials should include information regarding rights in respect of travel to Welsh-medium schools and the transport policy should be reviewed urgently in order to prepare the documents as soon as possible.

OUTCOME 2

There is a need to harmonise the objectives within **Outcome 2** with the figures in the table.

OUTCOME 3 AND 4

The opening of Ysgol Gyfun Gwent Iscoed is an important step forward for Welsh-medium education in Monmouthshire. In order to ensure that an increase to 95% of the authority's children who receive Welsh medium primary education transferring to the secondary sector by 2020. Every child from Monmouthshire who currently attend o Ysgol Gwynllyw study all subjects in Welsh and the same is expected in Gwent Iscoed.

There is a need to understand the nature of the partnership and the provision which will develop between Cwm Rhymni, Gwynllyw and Gwent Iscoed but also the nature of the provision at Coleg Gwent within **Outcome 3 and 4**.

OUTCOME 5

The Forum is expected to understand the implications of the Framework and **Outcome 5** should refer to any mapping work undertaken as a result of that.

OUTCOME 6

Details of the most recent assessment of Welsh medium ALN provision should be included within **Outcome 6**. While recognising that numbers are small within the two primary schools and that all Welsh medium secondary provision is out of the authority, any discussions and sub-regional plans if

these happen, should be included.

OUTCOME 7

The authority states that there is no specific problem in recruiting staff within **Outcome 7** although **Outcome 1** refers to the difficulty of recruiting a nursery teacher. The plan however includes a timetable in terms of assessing the language skills of the workforce and the way in which any findings will feed into training and professional development plans.