

SUBJECT: WELSH IN EDUCATION STRATEGIC PLAN 2017-2020

MEETING: CABINET

DATE: 14th October 2017

DIVISION/WARDS AFFECTED: ALL

1. PURPOSE:

To seek member approval for the Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) 2017-2020 for Monmouthshire County Council.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

It is recommended that Cabinet Members:

- 2.1 Receive the Monmouthshire WESP 2017-2020 Plan
- 2.2 Agree to the proposals and plans contained within Monmouthshire's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) 2017-2020 including the potential expansion of Welsh medium primary and secondary education within the county.

3. KEY ISSUES:

- 3.1 Welsh Government's vision is to see one million Welsh speakers across Wales by 2050 and in order to achieve this the following actions will need to happen:

- more children in Welsh-medium education;
- better planning in relation to how people learn the language;
- more easy-to-access opportunities for people to use the language;
- a stronger infrastructure and a revolution to improve digital provision in Welsh; and
- a sea change in the way we speak about it.

Education is one of the key drivers to realise this vision through ensuring that children have the opportunity to develop their Welsh skills at an early age to create new speakers of the future.

3.2 The WESP is the key strategic document where local authorities publish plans for the expansion of Welsh-medium education over the next three years.

3.3 The WESP continues to focus on the five outcomes in the previous Welsh-medium Education Strategy 2010, which are:

- more seven-year-old children being taught through the medium of Welsh as a percentage of the Year 2 cohort;
- more learners continuing to improve their language skills on transfer from primary school to secondary school;
- more learners studying for qualifications through the medium of Welsh;
- more learners aged 16-19 studying Welsh and subjects through the medium of Welsh; and
- more learners with improved skills in Welsh

3.4 In addition, all Local Authorities are required to address standards of attainment in Welsh and Welsh Second Language, Welsh-medium provision for learning with additional learning needs (ALN) and workforce planning and continuous professional development.

3.5 Monmouthshire submitted a Draft WESP to Welsh Government on 20th December 2016 for approval. However, following a review of WESP's, the Cabinet Secretary for Lifelong Learning and Welsh Language Alun Davies, commissioned a rapid policy review by the former Assembly member Aled Roberts, to evaluate the quality and ambition of the submissions. Monmouthshire complies fully with this process and the WESP has been amended to reflect the feedback from the Welsh Government.

4. REASONS:

4.1 The Monmouthshire WESP has been developed to ensure that the local authority complies with guidance issued by Welsh Ministers under section 87 of the Schools Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 to submit a WESP for approval by Welsh Government.

4.2 The WESP sets out the strategic steps and actions Monmouthshire propose to take to contribute to achieving the Welsh Government's vision of million Welsh speakers across Wales by 2050.

5. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

- 5.1 There is a potential resource implication of £45.4m for the Local Authority if the proposal for the expansion of Welsh medium education by providing a dual stream English/Welsh medium 3 to 19 years school in the North of the county as outlined in our Strategic Outline Programme (SOP) Band B should this be agreed and approved. This is at the first stage of submission to the Welsh Government and is dependent upon Welsh Government funding of 50% of the total cost (£22.7m) and Monmouthshire's ability to match fund that award.

6. WELLBEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS IMPLICATIONS (INCORPORATING EQUALITIES, SUSTAINABILITY, SAFEGUARDING AND CORPORATE PARENTING)

- 6.1 The well-being of future generation assessment is attached. No significant implications were identified.

7. CONSULTEES:

- Members of the Children and Young People's Select Committee
- neighbouring local authorities
- head teacher of each school
- governing body of each school
- further education sector in its area
- in relation to any foundation or voluntary school in its area – the person who appoints the foundation governors
- if the school has a religious character, the appropriate religious body
- Welsh Language Commissioner
- Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership
- school councils
- Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education and Training in Wales
- Local Welsh Medium Forum
- Urdd
- Menter Iaith
- Other such organisations providing services to children and young people as the local authority
- DMT
- Cabinet Members - 11th January 2017

8. BACKGROUND PAPERS:

- Welsh in Education Strategic Plans
- Estyn Thematic Report Local Authority Welsh in Education Strategic Plans September 2016
- Consultation on a Welsh Government draft strategy: A million Welsh speakers by 2050
- Monmouthshire Welsh Language Strategy 2017 -2022
- Welsh-medium Education Strategy: next steps
- Strategic Outline Plan Band B

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