



CABINET - 8TH DECEMBER 2021

SUBJECT: WELSH IN EDUCATION STRATEGIC PLAN 2022-2032

REPORT BY: CORPORATE DIRECTOR EDUCATION AND CORPORATE SERVICES

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 This report for cabinet members, will present the proposed Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) 2022-2032 and ask approval to submit to Welsh Government in January 2022 for publication and implementation by September 2022.

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 This Welsh in Education Strategic Plan is made under Section 84 of The School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 and complies with The Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (Wales) Regulations 2019 and The Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (Wales) (Amendment) (Coronavirus) Regulations 2020. When setting targets, due regard has been given to the statutory guidance issued by Welsh Ministers.
- 2.2 The legal requirement with the new regulations is to draft the plan with consultation this term, submission in January 2022, publication in Summer 2022 following Welsh Government Ministerial approval of the plan, with the implementation from September 2022.
- 2.3 The minimum target of 26% for learners in year 1 by 2032 is set by Welsh Government in order to meet the 1 million Welsh speakers by 2050 target. In order to meet this ambitious target, we will need to build a new Primary School and expand others to create the places. In addition, we will need a communication plan to increase the take up of those places and our starting point will need additional provision in Ti a Fi and Cylchoedd in the early years.
- 2.4 When we expand our Welsh medium provision, we will also need to expand our Welsh speaking workforce along with a substantial number of other actions highlighted at the end of each outcome area of the plan.
- 2.5 The Welsh Government recognises the need for capital investment and has created additional capital funding alongside the 21st century school Band B programme, which we have worked with the 21st century schools planning team to develop robust capital bids. We will need careful planning within Education teams to support the transition for

children and families to enable incremental transition over the coming 10 years and prevent a detrimental sudden unmanaged impact on English medium schools.

- 2.6 The Welsh Education Forum meets termly to monitor progress towards actions and has identified the need for an ongoing task group under the forum to drive forward and coordinate activities around communication and promotional work linking to the Welsh Language Strategy and forum. Part of this work will also include how we develop and promote latecomer immersion provision as well as increased Welsh speaking workforce.
- 2.7 The consultation is currently open and will be live until 5th December 2021 when comments will be considered for the final Welsh in Education Strategic Plan and can be discussed with Cabinet on 8th December 2021 ready for submission to Welsh Government January 2022.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 Cabinet Members are asked to receive the Welsh in Education Strategic Plan as part of the consultation process and comment regarding sufficiency of information and targets to achieve the outcome areas and meet our minimum 26% target in year 1 cohort by 2032.

4. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 Compliance with The Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (Wales) Regulations 2019 and The Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (Wales) (Amendment) (Coronavirus) Regulations 2020.

5. THE REPORT

- 5.1 This Welsh in Education Strategic Plan is made under Section 84 of The School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 and complies with The Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (Wales) Regulations 2019 and The Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (Wales) (Amendment) (Coronavirus) Regulations 2020. When setting targets, due regard has been given to the statutory guidance issued by Welsh Ministers.
- 5.2 This plan outlines how we intend to work with the Welsh Government and a wide range of stakeholders to work towards delivering the Cymraeg 2050 ambition of 1 million Welsh speakers as well as the Programme for Government 2021-2026. The funding will support our aspirations for the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act for a vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language regardless of your socio demographic context. This plan is intrinsically linked to delivering our integrated targets, using the sustainable development principles, across the Caerphilly county borough including Childcare Sufficiency Assessment plan 2022-2027, the Welsh Language Strategy 2022-2027 and our Caerphilly Corporate Plan 2018-2023 especially Objective 1 Improve Education Opportunities for All and the Strategic Equality Plan 2020-2024 Objective 5 – Welsh Language. The plan demonstrates an importance of improving standards and enabling positive transition throughout education to positive education, training, and employment opportunities, as well as strong connections to A More Equal Caerphilly, A More Prosperous Caerphilly as well as A Caerphilly of Vibrant Culture and Thriving Welsh Language.

- 5.3 It is clearly understood that to increase the number of children accessing Welsh medium education provision we need to focus on increasing opportunities for children and their families in the early years. Increasing the number of places in childcare and nursery education with a follow through to allow 100% transition throughout Welsh medium education will increase the numbers of Welsh speakers leaving school and entering employment, education, and training opportunities. There is a high demand across all roles in the workforce for Welsh speakers, so it is critical to increase the number of young people leaving school who speak Welsh as well as increasing the opportunities for adult learners.
- 5.4 Our 10year target over the lifespan of this plan is to increase the places in year 1 to between 26% (520) and 30% (600) of children in Welsh medium education by 2030/31. The Welsh Government guidance document, outlines the methodology in calculating the target, shows that in 2019/20 our percentage was 17.9% (we are in group 3). The other local authorities in Gwent are in group 4. This is a challenging target and needs to be considered across all aspects of our Welsh in Education Strategic Plan.
- 5.5 Our current position is based on actual places in reception in 2020 and includes ongoing estimates for places available and being created through our current capital development programme. In 2020 there were 421 Welsh language places available which will increase to 466 places available in year 1 by 2031 through our current expansion capital programme. However, the current year 1 cohort actual take up is 366 Welsh language places, which is lower than those available. Based on current estimates for birth rate and applications the number in year 1 in 2031 the number is predicted to be 411. There is a clear need to develop a minimum additional 54 year 1 places which is likely to require a new Primary School and expansion of existing provision to achieve 26% (520) children in Welsh medium education in year 1 by 2032. Previously we have based our development on the parental demand survey which showed a demand of approx. 18% but we are moving towards setting a more stretching target of 26% by 2032 to direct future developments.
- 5.6 The analysis of the places in the borough show there are particular areas requiring development. The movement of Ysgol Cwm Gwyddon to Cwmcarn is anticipated to serve their catchment area more effectively from the more central location in the valley. The location should improve transition rates although it will possibly need development of Ti a Fi and Cylch in the north and south of the valley to serve the school's potential expansion. The site is also big enough to support the development of secondary provision in the future if needed. A pinch point for places in the Caerphilly basin area has been overcome initially by the expansion of Y Castell and YGG Caerffili but continues to necessitate the development of a Welsh medium primary in the Bedwas Machen area in line with the 21st century schools band B programme. Analysis of our school housing stock would show the need for development in Ysgol Trelyn and Ysgol y Lawnt to move towards 21st century schools in the areas alongside childcare provision. With all expansion or capital developments, we will consider how we can also develop childcare on site for 2-11year olds to improve transition and support our families who need the provision.
- 5.7 The actions within this Welsh in Education Strategic Plan fit with our strategic aims in the Caerphilly 5year Welsh Language Strategy:
1. Increase the number of families where the Welsh language is spoken with children

2. Increase the use of Welsh among children and young people, increase their awareness of the value of the Welsh language, and ensure better access to social activities and events through the medium of Welsh
3. Support community groups and help them to increase the use of Welsh within their localities.
4. Promote and improve availability of Welsh-medium services in the borough

5.8 There are seven outcome areas which each have specific requirements under the regulations and subsequent guidance met through the detailed information in each section and the high level 10year targets.

Outcome 1: More nursery children / 3year olds receive their education through the medium of Welsh

Outcome 2: More reception class children / 5year olds receive their education through the medium of Welsh

Outcome 3: More children continue to improve their Welsh language skills when transferring from one stage of their statutory education to another

Outcome 4: More learners study for their assessed qualifications in Welsh (as a subject) and subjects through the medium of Welsh

Outcome 5: More opportunities for learners to use Welsh in different contexts in school

Outcome 6: An increase in Welsh medium education provision for learners with additional learning needs (in accordance with the duties determined by the ALN Act)

Outcome 7: Increase the number of teaching staff to be able to teach Welsh (as a subject) and teach through the medium of Welsh.

5.9 **Conclusion**

The Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2022-2032 has updated information regarding the current position in each outcome area and has identified high level actions in order to meet the minimum 26% of the year 1 cohort taught through the medium of Welsh target by 2032.

The consultation period has opened and is being circulated to all required consultees as well as being available to the public via our council website.

6. **ASSUMPTIONS**

6.1 There are no specific assumptions.

7. **SUMMARY OF INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

The Integrated Impact Assessment has been completed. The Welsh in Education Strategic Plan stimulates demand for Welsh medium provision and Welsh language Education to enable positive engagement across all communities with the Welsh language. There are substantive positive impacts for the Welsh in Education Strategic Plan including promoting and supporting development of the Welsh language across communities through Welsh medium schools and Further Education as well wider community support for parents to develop their Welsh language skills. There are substantive links to the equalities, 21st Century Schools and CCBC Welsh Language strategies as well as the Welsh Governments strategy for 1 million Welsh speakers by 2050. The Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2022-2032 has updated information regarding the current position in each outcome area and has identified high level actions in order to meet the minimum 26% of the year 1 cohort taught

through the medium of Welsh target by 2032. The consultation period has opened and is being circulated to all required consultees as well as being available to the public via our council website

8. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 There are no financial implications of this report as any resources required have been incorporated into existing resources, plans or future bids.

9. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 There are no personnel implications of this report.

10. CONSULTATIONS

- 10.1 All views in the consultation are contained within this report.

11. STATUTORY POWER

- 11.1 The Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (Wales) Regulations 2019 and The Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (Wales) (Amendment) (Coronavirus) Regulations 2020.

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Welsh Education Forum

Appendices:

- Appendix 1 Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2022-2032
Appendix 2 Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2022-2032 action plan
Appendix 3 Integrated Impact Assessment