
**LONG TERM STRATEGY FOR SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT “CARDIFF 2020
– AIMING FOR EXCELLENCE”**

Purpose of the Report

1. As part of the Children & Young People Scrutiny Committee 2015-16 Work Programme, agreed in September 2015, the Committee requested a report on the Long Term Strategy for School Improvement. This report provides the Committee with a copy of the Cabinet report, attached at **Appendix A**, which was approved at its meeting on 19 May 2016, for consideration and comment.

Background

2. The Committee initially agreed to consider the draft long term strategy, as in May 2015, the Members received a briefing and letter, from the Assistant Director of Estyn, following their Estyn Monitoring visit in March 2015. The letter highlighted that there was not a clear enough shared understanding of the Long Term Strategy for school improvement.
3. The Committee also scrutinised the Education and Lifelong Learning Delivery Plan 2016-18, in April 2016. The plan included an explanation of the Departments Strategic direction - Cardiff 2020 – Aiming for Excellence, which stated that:

Our key aspirations for the year ahead are set within the context of the vision and goals of our emerging 5 year strategy to improve education and learning in Cardiff. Our vision is that all children and young people in Cardiff attend a good school and develop the knowledge, skills and characteristics to become personally successful, economically productive and actively engaged citizens.

Over the next five years we will be striving to:

- Deliver consistently excellent outcomes for learners.
- Secure the best people to lead, teach, support and govern our schools.

- Offer inspiring, sustainable, learning environments fit for the 21st Century.
 - Deliver a self- improving school system, forming strong and dynamic partnerships between schools in the region.
 - Ensure that schools are connected with the communities they serve and with business and enterprise in the city region.
4. The Director of Education and Lifelong Learning provided the Committee with a verbal update on the development of the Long Term Strategy for School Improvement, at the March 2016 Committee meeting, following which, the Committee wrote noting the work being undertaken and looked forward to the scrutiny of the draft strategy at the June Committee meeting.

Issues

5. The Cabinet approved the Cardiff 2020 – Aiming for Excellence report, on 19 May 2016. The report sets out the long term improvement strategy for education and learning in Cardiff that secures the commitment of all key stakeholders to a clear set of goal and desired outcome. The report also details the following aspects of the strategy:

Vision

All children and young people in Cardiff attend a great school and develop the knowledge, skills and characteristics that lead them to become personally successful, economically productive and actively engaged citizens.

Values

We are committed to:

- Supporting the development of happy and resilient learners, with a focus on both academic achievement and personal well-being.
- Equality of opportunity and championing the success and life chances of all children by narrowing the gap in education outcomes.
- Working openly and collaboratively with each other and sharing knowledge, practice and learning.
- Raising the aspirations of all children and young people and our expectations of what they can achieve, irrespective of their background or need.
- Embracing diversity, practising tolerance and respect for ourselves, our communities and our environment.

- Celebrating the success of pupils, practitioners and schools at every opportunity.

Mission Statement

Through excellent education and learning for all children and young people, strengthen economic prosperity, wellbeing and social cohesion in Cardiff.

6. To deliver these aspirations, the Education and Lifelong Learning Directorate is set a number of key goals and desired outcomes, namely:

- **Excellent outcomes for all learners** - We hold consistently high expectations for all learners and ensure high achievement and positive well-being for all. Barriers to learning are addressed to make sure that no child or young person is 'left behind'. The curriculum is flexible and engaging. A focus on high quality teaching is at the heart of every school. Assessment is used to develop learning and to ensure open and clear accountability in the education system.

- **A high quality workforce** - We attract the best people to lead and work in our schools and education settings. We recruit, retain and develop staff at all levels and ensure that the next generation of teachers, wider practitioners and leaders are working in Cardiff.

- **21st Century learning environments** - There are appropriate, high quality school places for children and young people which meet the needs of Cardiff's growing and changing population. Schools provide a safe and inspiring environment for learning and are strongly connected to their communities. Learning beyond the classroom is extended through the creative use of digital technologies and through accessing the resources of the city and its wider environment.

- **A self-improving school system** - Schools take shared responsibility with the Local Authority and the Central South Consortium for securing the best outcomes for all learners across the city. Collaboration between schools builds the capacity for collective improvement across the system.

- **Schools and Cardiff in partnership** - Schools and early years settings have strong links with the communities they serve and with business and enterprise in the city region. Families and employers value education and work closely with schools to contribute to the achievement and progression of children and young people.

7. The strategy further states that as a result of work, over the next five years, we are seeking to achieve the following ambitious outcomes for the children and young people of Cardiff:
- All children and young people will be able to access an appropriate, high quality education place that meets their individual needs.
 - Educational attainment at the end of each key stage will be the best in Wales and in line with top quartile performance in the core cities of the UK.
 - Every child will leave primary school literate and numerate in line with age related expectations.
 - Pupils from low-income families will achieve at the same level as their peers – we will close the attainment gap.
 - Children and young people with additional learning needs will be able to access an improved system designed to ensure that their needs are assessed, and the provision necessary to meet those needs is planned for in a more collaborative, consistent and equitable way.
 - All young people will achieved a recognised qualification at the end of statutory schooling.
 - All young people will complete statutory schooling equipped with a menu of skills for life and make a successful transition to education, employment or training.
 - All young people are safe and their emotional well-being is high.
 - Children and young people will be aware of their right to participate and for their opinion to be heard, and will be involved in decision-making about education policies and services which affect their lives.
8. Each of the strategy's goals identifies a number of "plans of action" which have been designed to achieve success, together with a list of measures, which success can be measured against.

Scope of Scrutiny

9. This report enables the Committee to review, assess and comment of the Cardiff 2020 – Aiming for Excellence Strategy. In particular Members may wish to inquiry whether, the Strategy addresses the points raised by the Estyn

inspection letter, Education reforms in Wales, and will achieve the desired outcomes as highlighted in the strategy.

10. Members may also wish to examine, how the relevant operational plans being used to deliver the strategy's goals are being developed and implemented, and which key stakeholders are involved in the delivery of the Strategy.

Way Forward

11. Councillor Sarah Merry (Cabinet Member for Education) and Nick Batchelar (Director of Education and Lifelong Learning) will present the report to the Committee, and will be available to answer any questions Members may have.
12. This report will also enable Members to provide any comments, concerns or recommendations to the Cabinet Member for Education and Director of Education and Lifelong Learning around the implementation of the plan.

Legal Implications

13. The Scrutiny Committee is empowered to enquire, consider, review and recommend but not to make policy decisions. As the recommendations in this report are to consider and review matters there are no direct legal implications. However, legal implications may arise if and when the matters under review are implemented with or without any modifications. Any report with recommendations for decision that goes to Cabinet will set out any legal implications arising from those recommendations. All decisions taken by or on behalf of the Council must (a) be within the legal powers of the Council; (b) comply with any procedural requirement imposed by law; (c) be within the powers of the body or person exercising powers on behalf of the Council; (d) be undertaken in accordance with the procedural requirements imposed by the Council e.g. Scrutiny Procedure Rules; (e) be fully and properly informed; (f) be properly motivated; (g) be taken having regard to the Council's fiduciary duty to its taxpayers; and (h) be reasonable and proper in all the circumstances.

Financial Implications

14. The Scrutiny Committee is empowered to enquire, consider, review and recommend but not to make policy decisions. As the recommendations in this report are to consider and review matters there are no direct financial implications at this stage in relation to any of the work programme. However, financial implications may arise if and when the matters under review are implemented with or without any modifications. Any report with recommendations for decision that goes to Cabinet will set out any financial implications arising from those recommendations.

RECOMMENDATION

That Committee reviews the information attached at **Appendix A**, together with information provided at the meeting and provide any recommendations, comments or advice to the Cabinet Member and / or Director of Education and Lifelong Learning.

DAVID MARR

Interim Monitoring Officer

NICK BATCHELAR

**Director of Education and
Lifelong Learning**

7 June 2016