
**CENTRAL SOUTH CONSORTIUM – CONTRIBUTION TO RAISING STANDARDS IN
CARDIFF’S SCHOOLS.**

Reason for the Report

1. To enable Members to receive a discussion paper on the South Central Wales Education Consortium (The Consortium)'s contribution to raising standards in Cardiff's schools (copy attached at **Appendices A**).

Background

2. The Committee, in November 2015 received a letter from the Consortium, stating that the Consortium's Joint Committee had agreed a common programme across all five authorities to scrutinise the Consortium's contribution to raising standards, self-assessment and Business planning for 2017/18. This would take place at the scrutiny committee meetings in January of each year. However, the Consortium was unable to provide a robust report in time for the January committee meeting and it was agreed that it should be presented to the February meeting.

Issues

3. The Managing Director of the Central South Consortium, Hannah Woodhouse, has provided a copy of the discussion paper, copy attached at **Appendix A**, which includes a description of progress being made across the following key areas:
 - a. 2016/17 Business Plan
 - b. Performance across the region in 2016
 - c. Self-evaluation and business planning for 2017/18
 - d. Performance in Cardiff's Schools
 - e. Challenge and support provided
 - f. Areas for further improvement

Scope of Scrutiny

4. Hannah Woodhouse, Managing Director of the Central South Consortium and Councillor Huw David, Chair of the Central South Consortium Joint Education Service Committee will present the discussion paper and will be available to answer questions Members may have.
5. The Director of Education and Lifelong Learning will also be in attendance to comment on the discussion paper and be available to answer any questions members may have.
6. The report will provide the Committee with an opportunity to review and respond to the issues raised in the paper (attached at **Appendix A**).

Way Forward

7. Members may wish to review the information contained in the attached document at **Appendix A**, determine whether there are any issues or comments which they would like to pass on to the Managing Director of the Consortium, Chairman of the Consortium's Joint Committee, Cabinet Member for Education or Director of Education and Lifelong Learning.

Legal Implications

8. 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/Council 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

9. 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/Council will set out any financial implications arising from those recommendations.

Recommendations

The Committee is recommended to:

- I. Consider the information provided **Appendix A** of this report.
- II. Consider whether they have any observations, comments or recommendations they wish to make to the Managing Director of the Consortium, the Chairman of the Joint Committee, the Cabinet Member for Education or the Director of Education and Lifelong Learning.

DAVINA FIORE

Director of Governance and Legal Services

7 February 2017