

**CENTRAL SOUTH CONSORTIUM CONTRIBUTION TO RAISING STANDARDS IN
CARDIFF'S SCHOOLS**

Reason for the Report

1. To enable Members to receive a report on the Impact of work in the central South Consortium's business plan on the region and Cardiff County Council, copy attached at **Appendix A**.

Background

2. The Welsh Government 's National model for regional working, published in February 2014 includes a section on Scrutiny and liaison between local authorities and regional consortia, which states:
"Each Local Authority and their respective regional consortium will make arrangements for robust democratic scrutiny of the consortium business plan and activities as it relates to individual local authority area. Each authority's scrutiny committee for education services will also need sufficient information to consider the performance of their schools.
Local authorities undertake to be reasonable in their expectation of consortia staff and resources and ensure that senior leaders are not required to spend a disproportionate amount of their time on reporting and scrutiny work".
3. The Committee agreed that as part of its work programme, that it would undertake the scrutiny of the Consortium to ensure that it provides the support and guidance and challenge needed to enable Cardiff's Schools to improve and improve the outcomes of Cardiff 's Pupils.

Issues

4. Andrew Williams (Acting Assistant Director), Catherine Rowlands Senior Challenge Adviser and Louise Blatchford (Business and Operations) from the Central South Education Consortium will be in attendance and has provided a briefing on the Central South Consortiums contribution to raising standards in Cardiff Schools, copy attached at **Appendix A**.

The briefing over the following elements:

- a. Background.
- b. Central South Consortium Business Plans.
- c. Performance in Cardiff's Schools
- d. The Challenge and support provided by the Consortium on behalf of Cardiff Council
- e. Additional Support requested by Cardiff
- f. Headline results across the region 2017/18;

Scope of Scrutiny

5. This report will provide the Committee with an opportunity to gain an understanding and test that the operation of the Consortium in its support to Cardiff schools together with the Council to, improve learner's outcomes, deliver high quality teaching and learning and support and empower school leaders.

Way Forward

6. At the meeting. Andrew Williams, supported by Kate Rowland, and Louise Blatchford will be in attendance to present the briefing.
7. At the meeting Councillor Julia Magill (Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Education, Employment and Skills) and Nick Batchelar (Director of Education and

Lifelong Learning) will be in attendance to answer any questions Members may wish to ask.

8. Members may wish to note the information contained in the report and determine whether there are any issues or comments which they would like to pass on to the Interim Managing Director of the Consortium, Cabinet Member or Director of Education and Lifelong Learning.

Legal 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 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

10. 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 in the report, appendix and presentation;
- II. consider whether they have any observations, comments or recommendations they wish to make; and
- III. consider a way forward with regard to any future scrutiny of the issues raised.

Davina Fiore

Director of Governance and Legal Services

3 January 2019