
CENTRAL SOUTH CONSORTIUM – SELF ASSESSMENT AND DRAFT BUSINESS PLAN 2016/17

Reason for the Report

1. To enable Members to consider the South Central Wales Education Consortium (The Consortium)'s draft self-assessment and draft business plan 2016/17, as agreed by Committee in November 2015 (copy attached at **Appendices A and B**).

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 self assessment and draft Business plan. This would take place at the scrutiny committee meetings in January of each year, rather than attending three scrutiny meetings as in previous years. Following consideration of the letter the Members agreed to continue the current practice, of inviting the Consortium to three Committee meetings a year, in January, June, and November, until this Council has improved and been removed from Estyn Monitoring.

Issues

3. The Managing Director of the Central South Consortium, Hannah Woodhouse, has provided a copy of the Draft Self Evaluation Report, copy attached at **Appendix A**, which includes an explanation of the positive features that and areas for improvement across three key areas:
 - a. Outcomes

- b. School Improvement Service
 - c. Leadership.
4. The Consortium's draft business plan 2016/17 is also attached at **Appendix B** and set outs the following areas:
- a. Our vision: To build a self improving school system
 - b. The Consortiums vision by 2018
 - c. The priorities for improvement in 2016/17 which include:
 - i. To transform the outcomes of learners across the region so that schools in the region are the best performing in Wales and rival schools across the UK, and
 - ii. Further develop the capacity of the school system to be self improving through the central South Wales Challenge.

Scope of Scrutiny

5. Hannah Woodhouse, Managing Director of the Central South Consortium will present the Self Assessment and draft Business Plan 2016/17 and will be available to answer questions Members may have.
6. The Director of Education and Lifelong Learning will also be in attendance to comment on the Self Assessment and Draft Business Plan 2016/17 and be available to answer any questions members may have.
7. The report will provide the Committee with an opportunity to review and respond to the draft self assessment of the Consortium's work (attached at **Appendix A**) and the Consortium's plans for the future as set out in its draft business plan 2016/17 (attached at **Appendix B**).

Way Forward

8. Members may wish to review the information contained in the attached documents at **Appendices A and B**, 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

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 **appendices A and B** 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.

MARIE ROSENTHAL
Director of Governance and Legal Services
6 January 2016