
**‘Seizing the Opportunity’
Shaping a new curriculum for Wales - Cardiff Education
Convention October 23rd – Verbal Briefing**

Purpose of the Report

1. The Director of Education and Lifelong Learning has agreed with the Committee Chairman to provide a verbal briefing on the ‘Seizing the Opportunity’, Shaping a new curriculum for Wales Cardiff Education Convention which was held on October 23rd 2018 in Sophia Gardens Cricket Ground.

Background

2. The Successful Futures report, an Independent Review of Curriculum and Assessment Arrangements in Wales was published in February 2015. The vision articulated in Professor Graham Donaldson’s review sets out firm foundations for a new approach to curriculum and assessment. The report emphasises the need to better prepare children and young people in Wales to thrive and be successful in a rapidly changing world. It points to the need for a simpler, more connected curriculum that provides breadth, enables greater depth of learning, ensures better progression and places a greater emphasis on skills. The four Key Purposes of the new curriculum encapsulate this vision, to create:
 - Ambitious, capable learners who are ready to learn throughout their lives.
 - Enterprising, creative contributors who are ready to play a full part in life and work.
 - Ethical, informed citizens who are ready to be citizens of Wales and the world.
 - Healthy, confident individuals who are ready to lead fulfilling lives as valued members of society.

3. The Welsh Government ambition is that by 2021 settings and schools will be using the new curriculum to underpin teaching and learning for children and young people aged 3-16.

Issues

4. Teachers and educators have a key role in shaping a future curriculum, but others too have a major stake in this enterprise. The perspectives of employers, communities, children, young people and parents need to inform and shape its development too - Education is Everybody's Business.
5. Cardiff is well placed to bring these perspectives together in one conversation. It is one of the fastest growing cities in the U.K. It is an expanding creative and cultural city with a high proportion of sector leading industries, growing entrepreneurship, thriving arts, sports and leisure sectors, a diverse and active third sector, an improving school system and strong further and higher education institutions.
6. The presentation will provide an overview of the convention. Together with some discussion points around how we can continue to engage with wider partners on the key challenge of shaping a new curriculum for Wales. This is key to the development of a new vision for Education and Learning in the City.

Scope of Scrutiny

7. Members will be able to review the feedback on the Convention as well as providing some views and suggestions to continue the "Civic conversation" for the future development of Education in Cardiff.

Way Forward

8. Councillor Sarah Merry (Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Education) and Nick Batchelar (Director of Education and Lifelong Learning) will present the briefing, and will be available to answer any questions Members may have.
9. 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.

Legal 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 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

11. 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 presented at the meeting and provide any recommendations, comments or advice to the Cabinet Member and or Director of Education and Lifelong Learning.

Davina Fiore

Director of Governance and Legal Services

7 November 2018