
**SCHOOL ORGANISATION PLANNING: CARDIFF WELSH IN EDUCATION
STRATEGIC PLAN (WESP) 2022-2032**

Purpose of the Report

1. At the last meeting of this Scrutiny Committee on the 21st September 2021, Members received a policy development briefing report on the Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) 2022-2032.
2. Following this meeting, the Chair wrote to the Cabinet Member stating that CYPSC would welcome further input into the WESP once available.
3. This report enables Members to consider the draft Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) attached as **Appendix A** prior to it being considered by Cabinet on the 14th October 2021.

Background

4. The Welsh Government published its Cymraeg 2050 strategy in 2017 which sets out a vision of reaching one million Welsh speakers by 2050.
5. By 2050, the aim is for 40 per cent of children (in each year group) to be in Welsh-medium education. Of those in English-medium education, the assumption is that half of those leaving school will report that they are able to speak Welsh. The strategy assumes that, nationally, 70 per cent of 15 year olds will be able to speak Welsh by 2050, made up of 40 per cent in Welsh-medium schools and 30 per cent in English-medium schools.

6. The Welsh in Education Strategic Plans (Wales) Regulations 2019 make provision for a local authority to prepare a ten-year Plan, the first to have effect from 1 September 2022, subject to the Welsh Ministers' approval. The decision to move away from a 3-year plan to encompass a ten-year period for the forthcoming plans allows for a longer-term strategic view of how to support Welsh in Education in Cardiff at a time of significant change in the education landscape.

Issues highlighted in the report to Cabinet

7. Much of the detail set out in the Cabinet report attached at **Appendix A** was considered by Members at the last CYPSC meeting. However, attached to the Cabinet report is the draft WESP at **Appendix 1**. Accompanying this at **Appendix 2** is a detailed explanation of the methodology implemented for setting the target for Cardiff, alongside Cardiff's projections.
8. The following issues are highlighted in the Cabinet report, as at **Appendix A**:
 - The Growth of the Welsh Language and Welsh Language Education in Cardiff (*paragraphs 5 - 9*)
 - Welsh Education Strategic Plan – Principles and Outcomes (*paragraphs 10 – 13*)
 - National and Local Targets (*paragraphs 14 - 18*)
 - Promoting the Welsh Language throughout our Education Sector (*paragraphs 19 - 27*)
 - Key Delivery Considerations (*paragraph 28*)
 - Stakeholder Engagement (*paragraphs 29 - 32*)
 - Consultation (*paragraphs 33 – 37*)
 - Local Member consultation (where appropriate) (*paragraph 38*)
 - Scrutiny Consideration (*paragraph 39*)
9. The draft Cabinet report also provides details on the following areas:
 - Financial Implications (*paragraphs 41 - 42*)

- Legal Implications (including Equality Impact Assessment where appropriate) (*paragraphs 43 - 51*)
- HR Implications (*paragraphs 52 – 54*)
- Property Implications (*paragraph 55*)
- Traffic and Transport Implications (*Paragraphs 56 - 75*)
- EIA (*paragraphs 76 - 77; plus Appendix 3*)

10. The report is supported by a number of appendices covering:

- **Appendix 1:** Cardiff WESP 2022-2031 - Consultation Draft
- **Appendix 2:** Technical Note setting out pupil projections and Welsh Governments Methodology for setting targets
- **Appendix 3:** Equality Impact Assessment (to follow)

Recommendations set out in the Cabinet Proposals

11. Cabinet is recommended to:

- Agree to consult on the content of the draft Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) in autumn 2021.
- Note that officers will bring a report on the outcome of the consultation to a future meeting to seek authorisation for submission to and consideration by Welsh Ministers

Way Forward

12. Councillor Sarah Merry (Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Education Employment, Skills), Melanie Godfrey (Director of Education and Lifelong learning), Richard Portas (Programme Director for the School Organisation Programme) and Michele Duddridge-Friedl (Operational Manager – Planning and Provision) will present the report to the Committee, and be available to answer any questions Members may have.

13. This report will also enable Members to provide any comments, concerns or recommendations to the Cabinet Member prior to its consideration by Cabinet.

Legal 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 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

15. 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.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee is recommended to:

- a) Review and assess the information contained in the draft Cabinet Report, attached at **Appendix A**, together with any information provided at the meeting;
- b) Provide any recommendations, comments or advice to the Cabinet Member and / or Director of Education and Lifelong Learning prior to the report's consideration by Cabinet.

Davina Fiore

Director of Governance and Legal Services

8 October 2021