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**EDUCATION SERVICES – PERFORMANCE REPORT 2021**

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**Purpose of the Report**

1. The Cabinet report (attached at **Appendix 1**) will enable Members to carry out a pre-decision scrutiny on Education performance in 2021. The Cabinet report details improvements in education performance in Cardiff, including the report of Her Majesty's Inspectorate for Education and Training in Wales, Estyn, of the Council's Education Services, as published on 9th February 2022.
2. The Cabinet report also updates Cabinet on education performance arrangements at present, in the context of the latest Welsh Government framework for evaluation, improvement and accountability for School Improvement.

**Background**

3. The vision for Education in Cardiff is clearly set out in Cardiff 2030 – *'a ten-year vision for a capital city of learning and opportunity'*, as launched in October 2019. Cardiff 2030 builds upon the prior Cardiff 2020 vision that was launched in May 2016 providing the city's new strategy for school improvement.
4. The Cardiff 2030 vision is embraced in the Council's Capital Ambition and the priorities for improvement in the short to medium term are captured annually in the Council's Corporate Plan within the well-being objective 'Cardiff is a great place to grow up'

5. The Cardiff 2030 vision set out two overarching themes and five goals to steer and direct educational achievement in the city for all children and young people:

*Themes*

- A shared responsibility for education and learning across the city
- Meaningful participation of children and young people

*Goals*

- A learning entitlement
- Learners' health and well-being
- Realising the curriculum for Wales 2022 in Cardiff
- A world class education workforce
- High quality learning environments

**Issues highlighted in the report to Cabinet**

6. The following issues are highlighted in the Cabinet report, as at **Appendix 1**:

- The Journey of Improvement (*points 10 – 22*)
- The Estyn Inspection (*points 23 - 25*)
- Summary of Inspection Outcomes (*points 26 - 29*)
- Delivering Cardiff 2030: a ten-year vision for a capital city of learning and opportunity (*points 30 - 37*)
- Cardiff 2030 - Highlights of wider key areas of performance (*points 38 - 59*)
- Cardiff 2030 – Retest and Refresh (*points 60 – 62*)
- Welsh Government – Framework for Evaluation, Improvement and Accountability (*points 63 – 65*)

7. The draft Cabinet report also provides details on the following areas:

- Financial Implications (*point 66*)
- Legal Implications (including Equality Impact Assessment where appropriate) (*point 67*)
- HR Implications (*point 68*)
- Property Implications (*point 69*)

8. The report is supported by an appendix covering:

- Appendix A - Final Estyn Report on Education Services in Cardiff Council  
*(report also available in Welsh)*

### **Recommendations set out in the Cabinet Proposals**

9. The Cabinet is recommended to:

- Acknowledge the progress made in delivering the Cardiff 2030 Vision for education and learning in the city.
- Accept the findings and recommendations of the Estyn report.
- Delegate responsibility to the Director of Education and Lifelong Learning to enact the required improvements in services post inspection, and to facilitate monitoring of such through the Council's performance management framework.
- Support the Director of Education and Lifelong Learning to share best practice in the areas commended as requested by Estyn.
- Support the Director of Education and Lifelong Learning to refresh the Cardiff 2030 vision and produce a focused three-year strategy for educational improvement during 2022.
- Support the Director of Education and Lifelong Learning to respond to the national reforms in Education and the Welsh Government changes to the Accountability & Assessment frameworks as these emerge.

### **Way Forward**

10. Councillor Sarah Merry (Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Education Employment, Skills), Mike Tate (Assistant Director of Education & Lifelong Learning) and Suzanne Scarlett (Operational Manager, Partnerships & Performance) will introduce the report to the Committee and be available to answer any questions Members may have.

11. This report will also enable Members to provide any comments, concerns or recommendations to the Cabinet Member prior to its consideration by Cabinet on the 24<sup>th</sup> February 2022.

### **Legal Implications**

12. 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**

13. 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 1**, 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**

**17 February 2022**