

# RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

MUNICIPAL YEAR 2014 - 2015

**EDUCATION & LIFELONG  
LEARNING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**12<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2014.**

**REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR  
EDUCATION & LIFELONG  
LEARNING.**

**Agenda Item No. 5**

**RHONDDA CYNON TAF DRAFT WELSH  
IN EDUCATION STRATEGIC PLAN 2014-  
2017. (WESP)**

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## **1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

The purpose of this report is to advise that the Council's revised Welsh in Education Strategic Plan for 2014-2017 (WESP) was approved by Welsh Government Ministers following some minor modifications on September 10<sup>th</sup> 2014 (Appendix 1).

## **2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that:

- 2.1 Members note the contents of the report
- 2.2 The monitoring of targets be reported annually to the Education and Lifelong Learning Scrutiny Committee.

## **3. BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 The National Assembly passed the School Standard and Organisation (Wales) Act in January 2013. The Act seeks to build upon the current non-statutory WESPs by moving them to a statutory footing. The Act will place a duty upon local authorities to consult on, produce and publish a Welsh in Education Strategic Plan that will be submitted for approval of, and monitoring by, Welsh Ministers. These will be 3 year plans with the expectation that they are reviewed by LA's on an annual basis.
- 3.2 Section 85 of the Act requires local authorities to prepare and submit a Welsh in Education Plan for approval or modification by Welsh Ministers. Sections 86 and 87 provide a power for Welsh Ministers to make provision by way of regulations.
- 3.3 The Welsh Government considers these plans to be essential tools in helping local authorities improve their Welsh-medium education planning and provision. They

also contribute to achieving the national targets set out in the Welsh-medium Education Strategy (WMES).

#### **4. REVIEW OF PLANS**

- 4.1 The Regulations require a local authority to review its Plan annually which, in effect, means a review of progress against the targets set out in the Plan. The review must be completed and the amended Plan which emerges from that process must be submitted to Welsh Ministers no later than 20<sup>th</sup> December 2014. This date is set out in the Regulations and there is no discretion to vary it.
- 4.2 Welsh Ministers were not in a position to exercise their approval functions in respect of most plans until late summer therefore there is every likelihood that this first review will not give rise to extensive changes
- 4.3 Rhondda Cynon Taf's WESP 2014 -17 can be viewed through the following link:-  
<http://www.rctcbc.gov.uk/en/relateddocuments/publications/education/welshineducationstrategicplan2014-2017.pdf>

#### **5. TARGETS IN THE WELSH MEDIUM EDUCATION STRATEGY**

- 5.1. WESPs must focus on the targets in the Welsh Medium Education Strategy and the LA is required to report annually on its performance against the following targets:
  - More seven year old children being taught through the medium of Welsh as a percentage of the Year 2 cohort;
  - More learners continuing to improve their language skills on transfer from primary school to secondary school;
  - More learners studying for qualifications through the medium of Welsh;
  - More learners aged 16-19 studying Welsh and subjects through the medium of Welsh; and
  - More learners with improved skills in Welsh.

Local authorities are also required in both quantitative and qualitative terms to address the following:

- Standards of attainment in Welsh and Welsh Second Language;
- Welsh-medium provision for learners with additional learning needs (ALN); and
- Workforce planning and continuing professional development (CPD).

#### **6. CONCLUSION**

- 6.1 A well established Strategic Planning Group which includes officers across service areas and other key stakeholders meets termly to monitor the actions and targets within the WESP.
- 6.2 The Table below shows the actions and timetable agreed by the Strategic Planning Group in October 2013 which has been amended to reflect the revised timescales.

Action	Responsibility	Timetable
Submit the draft WESP 2014-2017 to Welsh Ministers for approval	Service Director for Schools and Community	20 <sup>th</sup> December 2013 <b>(completed)</b>
Consultation with <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Governing Body of maintained schools in the local authority's area</li> <li>• The Children's Commissioner for Wales</li> <li>• The Welsh Language Commissioner</li> <li>• The Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership</li> <li>• School Councils</li> <li>• Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education &amp; Training in Wales</li> </ul>	Service Director for Schools and Community	6 <sup>th</sup> January 2014 – 3 <sup>rd</sup> March 2014  <b>(completed)</b>
WESP published by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Placing it on the LAs website</li> <li>• Making copies of the plan available for inspection by members of the public at               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ LA offices; and</li> <li>➤ Any other place it considers appropriate</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Service Director for Schools and Community	1 <sup>st</sup> June 2014 WESP Published in Draft September 20 <sup>th</sup> 2014 Final WESP published
WESP reviewed and revised as required	Service Director for Schools and Community	By 20 <sup>th</sup> December 2014
Report on progress against targets to Education and Lifelong Scrutiny Committee	Service Director for Schools and Community	By 1 <sup>st</sup> June 2015

6.3 Progress against the actions and targets in the WESP will be monitored by the Strategic Planning Group and reported to the Education and Lifelong Learning Scrutiny Committee on an annual basis during the Spring Term.

