



Minutes of the Central South Consortium Joint Education Service Committee held at Ty Dysgu, Nantgarw on Wednesday, 17th December, 2014 at 08.45am

PRESENT:

Members of the Committee

Councillor H.David, Bridgend County Borough Council
Councillor J.Magill, Cardiff City Council
Councillor C. Elmore, Vale of Glamorgan Council Borough Council
Councillor (Mrs) E. Hanagan, Rhondda-Cynon-Taf County Borough Council
Councillor H. Jones, Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council

Officers in Attendance

Mr.R.Evans, Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council
Mr.M.Pennell, Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council
Mr C. Bradshaw, Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council
Ms.J.Hill, Vale of Glamorgan County Borough Council
Mr N. Batchelar, Cardiff City Council
Ms L. Buck, Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council
Ms D. McMillan, Bridgend County Borough Council

Also in Attendance

Ms.H.Woodhouse, Managing Director, Central South Consortium
Mr K. Napieralla, Welsh Government
Mr R. Hopkins, Central South Consortium

31. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Mr G. Chapman, Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council and Mr P. Orders, Cardiff City Council.

32. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Members had no personal interests to declare in matters pertaining to the agenda.

33. MINUTES

RESOLVED – that the minutes of the Central South Consortium Joint Committee held on the 30th September 2014 be approved as an accurate record.

34. ESTYN REMIT INSPECTION

Ms H. Woodhouse provided Members with an update in respect of the Estyn and Wales Audit Office visit to the Central South Consortium at the end of November 2014 and she extended her gratitude to all the officers and Members who participated in the interviews. It was reported that Estyn and the WAO have provided verbal feedback following their visit which was relayed to Members of the Joint Committee with the findings of the evaluation of regional services being formally reported in late spring 2015.

Ms Woodhouse shared the feedback from the visit in terms of the project objectives such as performance management issues, governance and strategic plans. It was agreed that the basics are in place but further improvement in certain areas needs to be made such as the relationship between regional service and local authorities, including scrutiny.

Members **RESOLVED** to note the update.

35. SELF EVALUATION REPORT

Ms H. Woodhouse presented her report in respect of the Central South Consortium Self Evaluation Report which also set out a summary of the key points from the self evaluation report.

The report highlighted the strengths and areas for improvement against several key areas and it was **RESOLVED** to note the report.

36. RISK MANAGEMENT

Members of the Joint Committee considered the Central South Consortium Joint Education Service Risk Register for the period December 2014. Members valued the records being presented before the joint committee to highlight the major risks to service delivery, budget and impact and their mitigating impact.

The Managing Director, Central South Consortium, requested that Members comment on the register as it stands and suggested that this item features as an agenda item at every meeting.

Members considered the Local Government merger as a risk which needs to be recognised in terms of the effect it may have upon officers and Elected Members. Consideration was given to the merger having

an impact upon the Consortium in its current form and a Member raised concern in respect to the disruption it could have upon schools and Head Teachers when improvements are evident for all outcomes relating to pupil achievement over the past three years. Members discussed potential ways in which the message that the Consortium needs to be maintained in its current guise could be relayed.

Following consideration of the report it was **RESOLVED**:-

- To agree the contents of the risk register subject to a few minor administrative changes
- That the risk register is presented at every meeting of the Joint Committee
- That consideration is given to a private discussion being held between the Chair of the Central South Consortium Joint Education Service Joint Committee and the Minister in respect of maintaining the current set up of the Consortium despite the Local Government merger.

37. REPORT OF THE TREASURER – 2014/15 FORECAST & 2015/16 BUDGET

The Group Accountant presented his report to the Joint Committee in respect of the following four issues:-

- Central South Consortium projected outturns for 2014/15
- Revised budget for 2014/15
- The 2015/16 revenue budget
- Apportionment of the 2015/16 grant

The Group Accountant outlined the projected outturn for 2014/15 and provided reasons for the variances with the added assurance that the budget will be closely monitored during the final quarter.

Members were also provided with details of the grant allocations for 2014/15 from Welsh Government and Sports Wales and an update was given in respect of the revenue budget for 2015/16. The Group Accountant informed the Joint Committee that the consortium has not yet received details of its allocation nor the terms and conditions for the Education Improvement Grant for Schools. However, the Group Accountant reported that the figures for the total grants available to the consortium in 2015/16 are based on discussions with the Welsh Government.

Further details of the grant funding were supplied such as those grants provided for specific circumstances, grants for general funding and a single grant delegated to schools.

Following the presentation Members commented positively on the grants set aside for the education of Gypsy and Traveller children. It

was queried whether the Section 151 Officers had been involved in discussions regarding the grants and match funding and whether the details had been shared with School Budget Forums. It was reported that consultation in respect of the budget would be carried out in January 2015 when details of the terms and conditions and allocation of the grants has been clarified.

Following consideration of the report it was **RESOLVED** to:-

- Note the projected outturn for the service for 2014/15
- Approve the proposed revised budget for 2014/15
- Note and approve the budget for 2015/16 in order for the home Councils to approve as appropriate and to confirm back at the next meeting of the Joint Committee
- Note the proposed basis of apportionment of the 2015/16 Education Improvement Grant for Schools.

REPORT OF THE TREASURER

38. CENTRAL SOUTH EDUCATION CONSORTIUM GRANTS

The Group Director updated members of the Joint Committee in respect of the grants to be received by the Consortium for 2014/15 for which notifications have been received and the methods of allocation of each were also outlined.

Following consideration of the report it was **RESOLVED** to approve the distribution of grants as detailed in section 4 of the report.

39. CENTRAL SOUTH CONSORTIUM OPERATIONAL PLAN

The Managing Director, Central South Consortium, outlined the operational plan and its six key areas which have been developed to enable effective measurement of achievement against the organisations business plan priorities:-

1. Challenge Framework
2. Support Framework
3. Governance
4. Performance and Self Evaluation
5. Financial Management
6. High Performing Organisation

Progress in the following areas was briefly updated:-

Sigs - It was reported that there has been considerable activity around the Challenge Framework with more work being concentrated around the most deprived schools to come in the New Year. An update was provided in respect of the Sigs which are all working well with further work being targeted at the Sigs by Cardiff University on the 15th January 2015. It was

confirmed that a mapping exercise around all 43 Sigs will commence shortly.

Pathfinder – The pairing of support schools and pathfinder schools has been strong with the initiative having been evaluated in September 2014

Hubs – The new booklet is being circulated to all schools on December 17th 2014 outlining the programmes which are on offer such as the Outstanding Teacher programme and the Improving Teacher Programme, led by Dr Jude Brigley, Strategic Adviser for Learning and Teaching.

Details of the next steps for 2015-16 were outlined such as the operational plan becoming a live document following further review with staff and headteachers. The list of organisational key milestones for the forthcoming year was attached to the report for information and Members queried whether the action points set out in red (classed as milestone missed) would be addressed and completed. The Managing Director, Central South Consortium, outlined the importance of the intervention work and the improvement work which is underway.

Discussions centred on the categorisation process and Members were updated with progress in this area by the Head of School Improvement, CSC. The Joint Committee was informed that categorisation has been a key concern and a primary focus with a view for every school having been established. The importance of early intervention was acknowledged so that schools in a category of concern are supported to ensure that appropriate action is set up as quickly as possible.

Following discussions it was **RESOLVED** to note the report.

(At 10.00am there followed a brief recess before Members of the Joint Committee re convened at 10.10am)

40. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED – That the press and public be excluded from the meeting under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act, 1972 (as amended) for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information, as defined in paragraph 14 of Part 4 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, namely, information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Authority currently holding that information). Transparency in the accountability for expenditure of public funds within the public sector is outweighed by the fact that the release of the information will prejudice the interests of the Joint Committee, consequently the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information by virtue of which the meeting is likely not to be open to the public during its consideration.

41. CENTRAL SOUTH CONSORTIUM BUSINESS PLANNING

The Managing Director, Central South Consortium, presented the report outlining the Central South Consortium Business planning process for the 2015-16 and confirmed that the timetable for the final proposals would be brought to the subsequent Joint Committee in March 2015.

It was considered appropriate that the Directors of Education should meet in January 2015 to consider the business planning process for 2015/16 prior to meeting with the Elected Members and Professor Mel Ainscow. Following discussions it was **RESOLVED** that the Joint Committee give the Managing Director, Central South Consortium, the scope to operationalise the staffing element of the plan related to the budget.

**C. ELMORE
CHAIRMAN**

The meeting closed at 11.05 a.m