



Minutes of the Central South Consortium Joint Education Service Committee held at the offices of Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council, The Pavilions, Clydach Vale on Wednesday, 9 December 2015 at 10.00 a.m.

PRESENT:

In the Chair:

Councillor C. Elmore (Vale of Glamorgan County Borough Council)

Members of the Committee

Councillor H.David (Bridgend County Borough Council)

Councillor S. Merry (Cardiff City Council)

Councillor H.Jones (Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council)

Councillor (Mrs) E. Hanagan (Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council)

Council Officers in Attendance

Ms.S.Walker – Head of Achievement (Primary) (Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council)

Mr. M. Pennell – Group Accountant (Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council)

Ms. J. Hill – Director of Learning & Skills (Vale of Glamorgan County Borough Council)

Mr P. Orders – Chief Executive, Cardiff City Council)

Ms C.Jones – Assistant Director of Education (Cardiff City Council)

Ms D.Haines – Chief Education Officer (Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council)

Ms L.Buck (Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council)

Also in Attendance

Ms.H.Woodhouse - Managing Director (Central South Consortium)

Ms.L.Blatchford – Business Manager (Central South Consortium)

Mr. R. Hopkins – Head of School Improvement (Central South Consortium)

Mrs.A.Carhart (Central South Consortium)

Ms.C.Jones (Welsh Government)

26 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Mr. G. Chapman (Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council), Mrs. E.Thomas (Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council) and Mr.K.Napieralla (Welsh Government).

27 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

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

28 MINUTES

RESOLVED to approve as an accurate record, the minutes of the meeting of the Central South Consortium Joint Education Service Committee held on 14 September 2015.

29 DRAFT BUSINESS PLAN 2016/17

The Managing Director presented her report outlining the Draft Business Plan for 2016/17.

The Director reported that it had not been possible to complete targets for the region because as yet, not all schools had completed their target setting process and a draft target setting summary would be prepared in readiness for the next Joint Committee meeting.

Members noted that the Business Plan proposed a 5% cut to the Consortium revenue in line with cuts likely within the Local Government settlement. Information about the future levels of grant funding had not yet been received so the business plan did not include further details of grant budgets.

The Head of School Improvement (Central South Consortium) then highlighted aspects of the Executive Summary of the Draft Self evaluation Report, also before Members.

The Director stated that the final Business Plan with budget, targets and final planning framework would be submitted to the March 2016 meeting of the Committee and this would be supported by approved and costed action plans under each improvement plan with intended impact. In the meantime, the Joint Committee was asked for comments on the draft Business Plan and Self-evaluation Report before them.

A lengthy discussion ensued and it was **RESOLVED** to accept the contents of the reports as presented subject to the following comments being taken on board in the preparation of the final versions to be presented to the Joint Committee:

- (1) To include reference to the Scrutiny Committee structure and in this regard, the pro-active approach of the Joint Committee in visiting member authorities and engaging with Scrutiny Chairs.

- (2) To make reference to the need for Members at both Assembly and Council levels to have a far greater understanding of Consortia with more robust briefings necessary around the work of Education and Schools generally.
- (3) To look at previous annual surveys to evidence whether schools are now more confident in the Consortium.
- (4) To include reference to the fact that authorities work together to achieve a rapid increase in not only the number of formal federations in place but amalgamations as well.

30 LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENTS

The Committee received a presentation from Ms. Anne Carhart (Central South Consortium) outlining the importance of effective leadership and the need for developing leadership skills to benefit schools and pupils.

The Committee was informed that the Central South Consortium had invested a high level of resource into developing leadership capacity to aid in succession planning. The programmes had extended provision under the 'New Deal' entitlement by the implementation of three pioneering pilot programmes for serving headteachers. The programmes were supporting headship leadership at all levels and providing a consistent standard across the Consortium. They also helped to provide support networks across the region for all Headteachers.

The Committee was advised of wider 'Leadership' provision available, the challenges faced in improving leadership within the region and also the next steps to be taken to ensure that all aspects of leadership were supported to meet expectations.

Following her presentation, Ms. Carhart responded to Members' questions.

The Chairman then thanked Ms. Carhart for the information she had provided to the Committee.

31 SCHOOLS CHALLENGE CYMRU

The Chairman announced that this item would stand deferred and the matter would be considered at the next meeting of the Joint Committee.

32 CENTRAL SOUTH CONSORTIUM - VALUE FOR MONEY REVIEW 2014-2015

The Committee was informed that following recommendations from the Wales Audit Office in addition to detailed self evaluation and at the

request of the Chief Executives across the five local authorities, the Central South Consortium were undertaking a variety of reviews regarding Value for Money.

Ms.L.Blatchford (Central South Consortium) presented the report before Members which summarised the findings in respect of the Consortium providing value for money in 2014-15 as well as a summary of the additional 'Value for Money' aspect of the Central South Wales Challenge.

Following a discussion, it was **RESOLVED** –

- (1) To note the report in respect of the Value for Money Review 2014-2015.
- (2) To receive a further progress report in due course.

33 CENTRAL SOUTH CONSORTIUM GRANTS

The Committee was provided with an update on the grants to be received by the Consortium for 2015-16 together with details of the methods of allocation of each grant available.

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

34 2015-16 BUDGET MONITORING UPDATE AND 2016-17 BUDGET SETTING PROCESS

The Committee considered the Treasurer's report which provided an update of the projected outturn for 2015/16, a summary of 2015/16 grant funding and sought approval of the 2016/17 revenue budget.

Following consideration of the report and recommendations, it was **RESOLVED** –

- (1) To note the current outturn position for 2015/16.
- (2) To note the current grant position for 2015/16.
- (3) To note and approve the budget for 2016/17 in order for the home Councils to approve as appropriate and to confirm back at the next meeting of the Joint Committee.

35 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.

REPORTS OF THE MANAGING DIRECTOR, CENTRAL SOUTH CONSORTIUM CONTAINING EXEMPT INFORMATION

36 TY DYSGU CONFERENCE CENTRE

The Managing Director presented her report in relation to the viability of utilising the Ty Dysgu Conference Centre as the office accommodation for the Central South Consortium.

Following on from the report, the Chairman informed the Committee that he and Managing Director were now planning to meet with Chris Bradshaw, the Chief Executive of Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council, to discuss issues around the current leasing arrangements of the building and associated matters.

It was, therefore, **RESOLVED** to note that the use currently made of Ty Dysgu generates more than it costs and to receive a further report following the outcome of the discussions to be held between the Chairman, Managing Director and Chief Executive of Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council.

37 RISKS AND PROGRESS – CONSORTIUM BUSINESS PLAN

The Committee considered the Central South Consortium Joint Education Service Risk Register as at December 2015 together with a summary of progress to date and it was **RESOLVED** to note the information.

38 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Although the next meeting of the Joint Committee was scheduled to take place on 23 March 2016, the Chairman informed the Committee that it was also necessary to convene a special meeting towards the end January or early February 2016 and Members would be formally advised in due course.

**C.ELMORE
CHAIRMAN**

The meeting terminated at 12.10 p.m.

