



Minutes of the Meeting of the Central South Consortium Joint Education Service Joint Committee held at the Valleys Innovation Centre, Abercynon, CF45 4SN on Thursday 13th September 2018 at 10:00am

PRESENT

Members of the Committee

Councillor S. Merry (Cardiff City Council)
Councillor J. Rosser (Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council)
Councillor R. Penrose (Vale of Glamorgan County Borough Council)

Council Officers in Attendance

Mr C. Bradshaw – Lead Chief Executive (Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council)
Mr. P. Griffiths – Service Director, Performance & Improvement (Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council)
Ms P Ham – Director of Learning & Skills (Vale of Glamorgan County Borough Council)
Ms S Walker – Chief Education Officer (Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council)
Mrs G Davies – Director of Education and Inclusion Services (Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council)
Mr L, Harvey – Corporate Director Education & Family Support (Bridgend County Borough Council)
Mr N. Batchelar – Director of Education (Cardiff City Council)

Also in Attendance

Mr M. Glavin – Managing Director (Central South Consortium)
Ms. L. Blatchford – Senior Lead - Business and Operations (Central South Consortium)
Mr A. Williams – Central South Consortium
Ms A Brychan – Central South Consortium
Ms H Williams – Wales Audit Office

16. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from County Borough Councillors L Mytton (Merthyr Tydfil CBC) and C Smith (Bridgend CBC).

17. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

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

18. MINUTES

RESOLVED to approve as an accurate record, the minutes of the Central South Consortium Joint Education Service Joint Committee held on the 14th June 2018.

19. CHANGE TO THE ORDER OF THE AGENDA

The Committee agreed that the agenda would be considered out of sequence and as detailed in the minutes set out hereunder.

20. TEACH FIRST

Members of the Committee were presented with the report which provided information on activity towards Key Performance Indicators for the Teach First Cymru contract with the Central South Consortium and highlighted key developments this year.

Members considered the report and put forward their questions to the Director of Teach First Cymru Wales. Members also requested information on the expenditure profile for the programme and the Managing Director indicated that this information will be provided at the next Joint Committee meeting. Following discussion Members **RESOLVED** to acknowledge the report.

21. REPORT OF THE WALES AUDIT OFFICE – AUDIT OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Ms H Williams, Wales Audit Office, presented to Members of the Central South Consortium Joint Education Service Joint Committee the report in respect of the Audit of Financial Statements for the Central South Consortium for the 2017/18 financial year. Ms H. Williams outlined the purpose of the report and thanked the Consortium for the continued support.

It was reported that there were no misstatements in the financial statements which remain uncorrected. Ms. Williams went on to inform the Committee that there were some minor misstatements and some narrative changes that have been made to the financial statements as a result of the audit; however there were none that the Wales Audit Office considered should be brought to the Committee's attention.

Members were pleased to see the positive report and acknowledged the work that the Consortium had undertaken along with the Wales Audit Office.

Members **RESOLVED** to accept the Audit of Financial Statement Report of the Central South Consortium Joint Education Service Joint Committee.

22. STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR-ENDED 31st MARCH 2018

The Service Director - Performance and Improvement presented the Treasurer's report to the Joint Committee in respect of the Central South Consortium Statement of Accounts for the financial year ending 31st March 2018.

The Service Director explained that the Accounts and Audit (Wales) Regulations require the Responsible Financial Officer to certify the unaudited Statement of Accounts by 30th June following the financial year end. He confirmed that the Joint Committee complied with the regulations in this respect and the unaudited accounts were signed by the Responsible Financial Officer in advance of the required date on 14th June 2018.

The Service Director informed the Committee that the updated Central South Consortium Statement of Accounts 2017/18, taking account of the minor misstatements and narrative changes identified as part of the external audit, was attached at Appendix 1. The Service Director also drew Members attention to Appendix 2 that contained the Letter of Representation for the Joint Committee and Appendix 3 that contained the Audit enquiries letter to those charged with Governance and Management.

The Service Director went on to inform Members that the audited final outturn position for the 2017/18 financial year was a £7k underspend and the level of General Balances held at 31st March 2018 was £136k.

It was **RESOLVED** to:

(1) Approve the Statement of Accounts for the financial year 2017/18 (Appendix 1), associated Letter of Representation of the Joint Committee (Appendix 2) and Audit enquiries letter to those charged with governance and management (Appendix 3); and

(2) To acknowledge the audited final outturn position for the Joint Committee for the 2017/18 financial year and the level of General Reserve Balances held.

23. 2018/19 BUDGET REPORT

The Service Director- Performance and Improvement presented the report of the Treasurer in respect of the 2018/19 budget for the Central South Consortium Joint Education Service Joint Committee.

Members were asked to consider, and if appropriate, approve virements to the 2018/19 revenue budget and Members were provided with an update on the projected outturn for 2018/19 together with a summary of the 2018/19 grant funding position.

The Service Director highlighted that following the Joint Committee approving the 2018/19 revenue budget on the 5th December 2017, a number of proposed budget virements had been identified, informed by up dated service information, to more accurately reflect the actual costs to be incurred during the year.

The Service Director went on to inform Members that the projected outturn position for the full year is a £3.5k underspend (projected as at August 2018). The Service Director added that the Consortium will continue to monitor and manage its resources and report up dates to the Joint Committee throughout the year.

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

1. Note and approve the proposed budget virements within the 2018/19 budget.
2. Note the current outturn position for 2018/19.
3. Note the current grant position for 2018/19.

24. SUMMARY OF PERFORMANCE

The Managing Director Central South Consortium with aid of handouts presented a summary of Performance 2018 data outlining final performance figures for Key Stage 3 and provisional figures for Key Stage 4 and Key Stage 5.

The Managing Director Central South Consortium presented the information under the following headings:

- Foundation Phase – Regional Performance
- Foundation Phase – Areas of Learning
- Foundation Phase – e - FSM vs. non e - FSM
- Comparisons to Wales Average FP
- Foundation Phase – Difference from Wales
- Key Stage 2- Regional Performance
- Key Stage 2- Core Subjects
- Key Stage 2 - e - FSM vs. non e – FSM
- Comparisons to Wales Average KS2
- Difference from Wales KS2
- Key Stage 3 - Regional Performance
- Key Stage 3 - Core Subjects
- Key Stage 3 - e - FSM vs. non e – FSM

- Comparisons to Wales Average KS3
- Difference from Wales KS3
- Key Stage 4 - Regional Performance
- Key Stage 4 - Core Subjects
- Key Stage 4 - e - FSM vs. non e – FSM
- Key Stage 4 – L2+
- Key Stage 5 – Regional Performance
- Key Stage 5 – Performance Measures

The Managing Director Central South Consortium outlined the data in all Key Stages. In respect of the Foundation Phase it was brought to Members attention that performance in all key indicators have fallen; however, the fall is smaller regionally than nationally. It was also explained that at the expected level, all performance measures are above the National average for 2018 results and at the above expected level, the Consortium exceeds the National average for Language Communication English and Mathematical Development, but is below the National average for Language Communication Welsh and Personal and Social Development.

In respect of the Foundation Phase Indicator (FPOI) it was explained that this has fallen to its lowest position over the last three-year period, but the decrease seen for the Central South Consortium is smaller than seen nationally for this performance measure. Members were informed that at the expected level and the above expected level, the gap between the performance of boys and girls has narrowed for all performance measures. The performance of both e - FSM and non e - FSM has fallen in the most recent year for the FPOI; however, the performance of e FSM pupils has fallen at a faster rate than non e – FSM pupils, and therefore, the gap has widened.

Moving on to Key Stage 2 performance measures, the Managing Director Central South Consortium informed Members that the Consortium continues to perform above the national average at both the expected level and above expected level, which includes both English and Welsh. There have also been further improvements in the Core Subject Indicator of the Central South Consortium during the last academic year.

In relation to Key Stage 3 Members were pleased to see that at level 7+, improvements have been made in all four performance indicators in the most recent academic year. Members were informed the gap in performance e-FSM and non e - FSM pupils has narrowed to its lowest position seen over a period of 4 years. Whilst the performance has increased for both pupil groups in the most recent academic year.

Members received an update on performance in respect of Key Stage 4 and it was explained to Members that all performance measures increased during the year, with the exception of Level 2 Science. However, it was explained that direct comparisons for Level 2 Science should be treated with caution, due to the changes to GCSE Science only for 2018 reporting. It was brought to Members attention that the gap in performance between e – FSM and non e –

FSM pupils in the region has increased for Level 2+ Threshold. However, this is seen against increasing performance for both groups of pupils, but non e – FSM pupils have improved at a faster rate in most recent years which has resulted in an increase in the gap in performance.

Members asked in respect of post 16 what work is being carried out. Officers explained more attention is being put on the challenge and support role. In respect of 16+ PI's Members were informed that colleges capture the data differently making direct comparisons with schools more difficult

Following consideration of the report Members **RESOLVED** to acknowledge the summary of performance.

25. CENTRAL SOUTH CONSORTIUM BUSINESS PLAN

The Managing Director Central South Consortium presented Members with the Business Planning Update. Members were informed that the first year of the improved system of business planning was completed at the end of March 2018.

The Joint Committee was reminded that it agreed the business plan 2018/2019 at its meeting held on 15th March 2018 and is monitoring implementation throughout the year. For the benefit of Members a summary of progress made in the first term of implementation was included.

Following evaluation of the business plan for 2018/2019 it was **RESOLVED**:

- To note the provisional performance data for the academic year 2017/18; and
- To note the progress made in implementing the business plan 2018/19.

26. BUDGET OVERVIEW AND CONSIDERATION FOR OPTIONS FOR CHANGE

The Managing Director Central South Consortium along with the Senior Lead Business and Operations presented Members with the 'Budget Overview and Consideration of Options for Change Report'.

The Managing Director provided an overview of the report that included how the Consortium has met the challenges of delivering core budget savings in recent years together with information on the 2018/19 core revenue budget and planning for 2019/ 20 and beyond. As part of the overview, the Managing Director reminded the Committee that the update was prepared in line with Members' requirements as highlighted in the 14th June Joint Committee meeting.

The Managing Director went on to set out a number of possible budget saving areas for the Joint Committee's consideration along with a range of options for Members review regarding arrangements for the approval and apportionment of external grant funding 'award offers'.

Following consideration of the Report Members **RESOLVED** to:

- Note the content of the Report;
- Support the formulation of more detailed savings options and report to the Joint Committee for consideration ahead of the December 2018 Joint Committee meeting; and
- Continue to delegate responsibility to the 'Directors' steering group to approve the appointment of grants and report recommendations to Joint Committee, and as papers are issued a week in advance of the meeting, provide opportunity to discuss with Cabinet Members prior to the Directors' meeting taking place.

**CLLR S MERRY
CHAIR**

The meeting terminated at 11:50am.