



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 8th November 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)
Councillor C. Smith (Bridgend County Borough Council)
Councillor L. Mytton (Merthyr Tydfil 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 N. Batchelar – Director of Education (Cardiff City Council)

Also in Attendance

Ms L. Blatchford – Acting Managing Director and Senior Lead - Business & Operations (Central South Consortium)
Mr A. Williams – Acting Assistant Director & Senior Lead Standards & Improvement Planning - Central South Consortium

27. APOLOGIES

Members were informed that the Chair was unavoidably delayed and as such it was agreed the Vice Chair would Chair the meeting.

28. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

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

29. MINUTES

RESOLVED to approve as an accurate record, the minutes of the Central South Consortium Joint Education Service Joint Committee held on the 13th September 2018.

30. CORE BUDGET PROPOSAL

The Service Director - Performance and Improvement presented the Joint Report of the Managing Director and the Treasurer around 2019/20 Budget Proposals.

The Service Director fed back that following the request of Joint Committee at its 13th September 2018 meeting, the report set out detailed core budget saving options for 2019/20. The Service Director indicated that the Chief Executives, Directors of Education and Managing Director consider the proposals to be deliverable without impacting on direct school improvement activities and he noted that the Treasurer has validated the proposals and confirmed they would be available for release in the 2019/20 financial year.

The Service Director also provided the Committee with an up dated medium term financial forecast for the period 2019/20 to 2021/22, and indicated that further work will be undertaken in this area following completion of the 2019/20 budget setting process.

Members considered the report and **RESOLVED** to:

- Endorse the core budget saving recommendations (Section 4) and instruct the Treasurer to incorporate the financial effect into the 2019/20 Budget Setting Report to be presented to Joint Committee in December 2018; and
- Note the up dated medium term financial modelling position (Section 5) and agree to receive further budget saving option updates following completion of the 2019/20 budget setting process.

31. GRANT BUDGET INFORMATION REPORT 2019/20

The Senior Lead – Business and Operations provided an overview of the 2018/19 grant funding position for the Central South Consortium and covered the areas of Regional Consortia School Improvement Grant, Pupil Development Grant, Governance Arrangements for Accepting Awards of Funding, Business Planning and Implementation issues.

Following the overview by the Senior Lead – Business and Operations, a number of observations and questions were raised.

The Director of Education (Cardiff Council) stressed the importance of on-going engagement with Welsh Government to highlight the importance of Consortia being able to exercise flexibility in the utilisation of Welsh Government grant funding, bearing in mind the majority of resources available to Consortia are from this source.

Members expressed the need for continued lobbying of Welsh Government with the aim of clarifying the future funding arrangements around Minority Ethnic Achievement Grant (MEAG). Members requested that officers formally write to the Welsh Government's First Minister, on behalf of the Joint Committee, highlighting the importance of this funding source and seeking clarity on the future funding arrangements.

The Lead Chief Executive went on to explain that in order to develop a better understanding of how resources are allocated across the five local education authorities that comprise the Central South Consortium, Section 151 Officers have been requested to review this area and report back to Chief Executives in the last quarter of the current financial year.

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

- Note the contents of the report;
- Write to Welsh Government to seek clarity regarding 2019/20 grant funding levels and request that the final grant funding envelope for Regional Consortia School Improvement is made available in line with publication of the Local Governance Revenue and Capital settlement announcement; and
- Write to the First Minister to reiterate the importance of MEAG funding and requesting clarity on future funding arrangements in this area.

32. PUPIL DEVELOPMENT GRANT 2018/19 – GRANT AWARD OF FUNDING APPROVAL

The Senior Lead – Business and Operations provided the Joint Committee with an update on the award of grant funding approval for the Pupil Development Grant 2018/19.

The Senior Lead – Business and Operations indicated the total award of funding for 2018/19 was £31,601,321 and went on to confirm the areas where the grant has been allocated and how Welsh Government has calculated the award of funding.

Members were informed that subject to the Joint Committee's consideration of the use and allocation of grant funding, this will be released to local authorities for distribution to respective schools.

Members scrutinised the report and **RESOLVED** to:

- Note the award of grant funding;
- Approve the use and distribution of grant funding in accordance with the terms and conditions of the award; and
- Recommend that the Lead Chief Executive and Lead S151 Officer approve the receipt of grant funding.

33. REVIEW OF THE FUTURE DIRECTION OF THE CONSORTIUM

The Lead Chief Executive presented Members with a proposal to review the Central South Consortium regional delivery arrangements and develop proposals for the future model of school improvement.

The Lead Chief Executive provided background information in terms of the continued improvement in pupil and school performance in the Central South Region of South Wales over the past 5 years, the key approaches that have been applied in developing a school to school improvement model and the active engagement of school leaders in the approach taken by the Consortium.

The Lead Chief Executive set out an overview of the proposed scope of the work to review the Central South Consortium regional delivery arrangements and indicated that in discussion with the Chair of the Joint Committee, the Chief Executives and Directors of Education, it was recommended that an independent review be commissioned and undertaken by ISOS Partnership.

The Lead Chief Executive went on to set out proposals to further enhance the role of the Joint Committee by creating opportunities to learn from schools and other councils in improving education outcomes. The Lead Chief Executive also provided a number of examples of areas where reports / updates could be requested by the Joint Committee. Members responded positively to the proposed way forward and requested the Lead Chief Executive to put in place the necessary arrangements.

Following discussion, Members **RESOLVED** to:

- Agree that an independent review of the Consortium is commissioned to inform the future governance, service delivery and financial costs of the regional service
- Agree that for the remainder of the academic year to September 2019, the Joint Committee increase the frequency of its meetings from three times a year to at least five times a year.
- Agree that the following topics be considered at the extra meeting.
 - 16+ Provision; and
 - Additional Learning Needs Bill.

**CLLR C SMITH
VICE CHAIR**

The meeting terminated at 11:50am