

CENTRAL SOUTH CONSORTIUM JOINT EDUCATION SERVICE JOINT COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Central South Consortium Joint Education Service Joint Committee meeting held on Monday, 15 July 2019 at 9.00 am at the Valleys Innovation Centre, Navigation Park, Abercynon, CF45 4SN.

County Borough Councillors - Central South Consortium Joint Education Service Joint Committee **Members in attendance:-**

Councillor C. Smith (Bridgend County Borough Council)

Councillor J. Rosser (Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council)

Councillor S. Merry (Cardiff 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 N. Batchelar (Director of Education, Cardiff Council)

Ms P. Ham (Director of Learning & Skills, Vale of Glamorgan Council)

Ms S. Walker (Chief Education Office Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council)

Ms N Echanis (Bridgend County Borough Council Council)

Ms G. Davies (Director of Education & Inclusion Services, Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council)

Mr P. Griffiths (Service Director, Finance and Improvement Services - Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council)

Others in attendance:-

Ms E. Thomas (Temporary Acting Managing Director, Central South Consortium)

Mr M Jones (Wales Audit Office)

Ms H Williams (Wales Audit Office)

14 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence was received from County Borough Councillor L Burnett Cabinet Member of Education for the Vale of Glamorgan Council.

15 Declaration of Interest

In accordance with the Council's Code of Conduct there were no declarations made pertaining to the agenda.

16 Minutes

RESOLVED to approve as an accurate record the minutes of the Central South Consortium Joint Education Service Joint Committee meeting held on the 21st May 2019.

17 To Elect a Chair 2019/20

RESOLVED to elect Councillor Dr Charles Smith as Chair of the Central South Consortium Joint Education Service Joint Committee for the 2019-20 Municipal Year.

18 Appointment of Vice Chair

RESOLVED to appoint Councillor Joy Rosser as Vice Chair of the Central South Consortium Joint Education Service Joint Committee for the 2019 -20 Municipal Year.

19 APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIR OF THE ADVISORY BOARD 2019/20

The Committee agreed to defer this item and consider at a future meeting.

20 Lead Roles - Chief Executive and Lead Director

RESOLVED to note that:

- (1) Mr P Orders (Cardiff Council) to replace Mr C Bradshaw as Lead Chief Executive Officer of the Central South Consortium for the 2019/20 Municipal Year.
- (2) Ms S Walker (Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council) to replace Ms P Ham (Vale of Glamorgan Council) as the Lead Director of the Central South Consortium for the 2019/20 Municipal Year.

21 ISOS Review of Central South Consortium

The Chair invited all Members and Officers to put forward their feedback and agreed that Option 7 (i.e. remodelling of the current Consortium model) was the most appropriate way forward.

Members **RESOLVED** to receive a report at a future meeting of the Joint Committee setting out an implementation plan to take forward the ISOS recommendations.

22 Report of the Wales Audit Office - Audit of the Financial Statement Report 2018/19

Mr M Jones, Wales Audit Office, presented Members with the Audit of the Financial Statements Report and Management Letter for the Central South Consortium for the 2018/19 financial year.

Mr M Jones outlined the purpose of the report and confirmed it was the Auditor General's intention to issue an unqualified audit report on the financial statements. Mr Jones went on to inform Members of the corrected and uncorrected misstatements and other significant issues arising from the audit.

Following consideration of the information presented, Members thanked Mr M Jones for the report and **RESOLVED** to accept the 2018/19 Audit of Financial

Statement Report and Management Letter in respect of the Central South Consortium Joint Education Service Joint Committee.

23 Statement of Accounts for Financial Year End 31st March 2019

The Service Director - Finance and Improvement Services presented the Central South Consortium Statement of Accounts for the 2018/19 financial year and explained that the Accounts and Audit (Wales) Regulations require the Responsible Financial Officer to certify the unaudited Statement of Accounts by the 15th June following the financial year end. The Officer confirmed that the Joint Committee complied with the regulations in this respect and the unaudited accounts were signed by the Responsible Financial Officer (i.e. Treasurer) following their presentation to the Joint Committee on the 21st May 2019. The Service Director added that the regulations require that the Joint Committee approve the audited Statement of Accounts by 15th September.

The Service Director - Finance and Improvement Services went on to inform Members that the updated Statement of Accounts were attached at Appendix 1 that take into account a small number of corrections made as part of the external audit process. The Service Director also informed Members of the Letter of Representation at Appendix 2 and indicated that this document had been prepared after full consultation with all relevant officers.

The Service Director drew Members attention to the audited final outturn position for the 2018/19 financial year and the level of General Reserve Balance as at 31st March 2019.

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

- (1) Approve the Statement of Accounts for the financial year 2018/19 (Appendix 1) and associated Letter of Representation of the Joint Committee (Appendix 2) incorporating responses to the Audit enquires to those charged with governance and management; and
- (2) To acknowledge the audited final out-turn position for the Joint Committee for the 2018/19 financial year and the level of General Reserve Balance held.

24 Grant Award of Funding

The Temporary Acting Managing Director (Central South Consortium) provided Members with an update on the grants to be received by the Consortium in 2019/20, for which notifications have been received, and the methods of allocation for each.

Members put forward their views in respect of the 2019/20 grant funding notifications received to date and stressed the need for on-going engagement with Welsh Government to highlight the importance of creating greater flexibilities for the Consortium in utilising grant funding available.

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

25 CSC Business Planning Review 2018-19

The Temporary Acting Managing Director (Central South Consortium) explained to Members that the cycle of business planning for 2018/19 was completed at the end of March 2019 and that impact review meetings were held with each drive team at the end of summer, autumn and spring terms and the progress made recorded.

The Temporary Acting Managing Director (Central South Consortium) went on to provide an overview of business plan performance for 2018/19.

Following consideration by Members it was **RESOLVED** to note the progress made in implementing the Business Plan 2018/19.

26 In Year Indicative Key Stage 4 Data - Performance of the Consortium

The Joint Committee received a verbal update from the Temporary Acting Managing Director (Central South Consortium) outlining the Key Stage 4 in year indicative data performance for the Central South Consortium and it was explained that the data produced is an indication as to whether schools are on track.

Members thank the Temporary Acting Managing Director for the update and **RESOLVED** to continue to monitor the data at future meetings.

27 Exclusion of the Press and Public

RESOLVED that the press and public be excluded from the meeting under Section 100 A (4) of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended) for the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 14 of Part 4 of Schedule 12A of the Act.

28 CSC Business Planning 2019- 20 - Risk Register

The Committee considered the Central South Consortium Joint Education Service Risk Register as at July 2019.

After consideration of the information presented by the Temporary Acting Managing Director (Central South Consortium), it was **RESOLVED** to acknowledge the content of the report.

This meeting closed at 10:10am

**CLLR C. SMITH
CHAIR.**