

CENTRAL SOUTH CONSORTIUM JOINT EDUCATION SERVICE.

Minutes of the Central South Consortium Joint Education Service. meeting held on Monday, 15 June 2020 at 11.00 am at the Virtual Meeting via ZOOM.

County Borough Councillors - Central South Consortium Joint Education Service. 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. Burnett (Vale of Glamorgan Council)

Councillor L. Mytton (Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council)

Council Officers in attendance:-

Mr P. Orders (Lead Chief Executive, Cardiff Council)

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

Mr M Tate (Assistant Director of Education, Cardiff Council)

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

Mr L. Harvey (Director of Education, Bridgend County Borough Council)

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

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

Others in attendance:-

Ms C Seery (Managing Director, Central South Consortium)

Ms L. Blatchford (Deputy Managing Director, Central South Consortium)

Mr A. Williams (Senior Lead, Central South Consortium)

Ms N Gould (Senior Lead for Curriculum Reform, Central South Consortium)

1 Declaration of Interest

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

2 Agenda

The Members agreed that the agenda would be considered out of sequence

3 To Elect a Chair

RESOLVED:

- To elect Councillor Charles Smith as Chair of the Central South

Consortium Joint Education Service Joint Committee for the 2020/2021 Municipal Year.

- That the Committee would not appoint a chair of the Advisory Board or convene Advisory Board meetings until the governance review had been completed.

(The Lead Chief Executive, Mr P Orders, requested Members of the Central South Consortium Joint Committee for their agreement to a 2 year role of key posts (with the governance review to consider a 2 year tenure for these posts) – this was agreed by the Committee.

4 Appointment of a Vice Chair

RESOLVED to appoint Councillor Joy Rosser as Vice Chair of the Central South Consortium Joint Education Service Joint Committee for the 2020/2021 Municipal Year.

5 Minutes & Matters Arising

Minute No: 56. – (21st January 2020) The Managing Director Central South Consortium updated Members in respect of the post of the Deputy Managing Director and confirmed that Ms L Blatchford was the successful applicant and has now been appointed to the role of Deputy Managing Director for the Central South Consortium from 1st April 2020. Members congratulated Ms Blatchford and wished her well in her new role.

Agenda and Papers for the 19th March 2020 Cancelled Meeting

The Managing Director Central South Consortium asked Members to formally accept the reports that had been circulated for the 19th March 2020 Joint Committee Meeting (which was cancelled due to the issues brought about by Covid 19 restrictions), namely:

- Report of the Treasurer – 2019/20 Budget Monitoring Update;
- Central South Consortium Grants – including the agreement for future grant awards to be accepted / approved via email should timescales not align with Joint Committee meeting dates;
- Business Plan 2020/21; and
- Report on the Efficiency and Effectiveness of the Central South Consortium 2018/19.

The Joint Committee also formally noted the following reports that had been circulated for the 19th March 2020 Joint Committee Meeting:

- Teach First;
- Risk Register; and
- Governance Workshop – noting that it was agreed that a governance workshop was not required and the Managing Director would provide a further update to Joint Committee post-summer 2020.

6 Calendar of Meetings 2020 -2021

RESOLVED to agree the following Calendar of Meetings of the Central South

Consortium Joint Education Service Joint Committee for the 2020 /21 Municipal Year (venue to be agreed);

- Monday 15th July 2020 at 10:00am -12:00pm;
- Wednesday 14th September 2020 at 10:00am - 12:00pm;
- Wednesday 18th November 2020 at 10:00am – 12:00pm;
- Wednesday 16th December 2020 at 10:00am -12:00pm;
- Thursday 21st January 2021 at 10:00am -12:00pm;
- Thursday 18th March 2021 at 10:00am -12:00pm; and
- Monday 20th May 2021 at 10:00am -12:00pm.

7 Local Authority Road Map to School Recovery

The Chair invited Cabinet Members and Directors of each of the five Local Authorities within the Central South Consortium to give an update on the processes and procedures that have been put in place to start the recovery plans for schools to return safely in line with the guidance from Welsh Government regarding Covid 19.

Each local authority highlighted the ways in which they have developed their delivery of learning throughout this pandemic and from the information provided it was evident that there was a consistent approach across the Consortium with each authority having a number of hub schools which provided provision for vulnerable learners, children of key workers and ALN Learners across both primary and secondary school settings.

Members were provided with an overview of the catering provision and the distribution of Free School Meals for each authority, and there was discussion in relation to the summer holiday provision for vulnerable learners and the BACS payment scheme.

The Directors of Education explained the development of digital learning and fed back how pupils were adapting to the blended learning approach and the systems which have been put in place to enable this type of learning to progress.

Further discussion took place with regards to the work being done with Headteachers and Unions and Welsh Government to ensure there is a safe return to school of all pupils and staff across our schools within the region.

8 Learning Update

The Senior Lead for Curriculum Reform presented Members of the Joint Committee with a verbal update in respect of professional learning provided by the Consortium.

It was explained that the Curriculum for Wales Bill is still on track for 2022 and the Central South Consortium has a key role in supporting all of the schools in the region to engage purposefully with Curriculum for Wales.

Members acknowledged that there is a move towards blended learning across the region's resource programme through the website and knowledge bank, and the Senior Lead for Curriculum Reform highlighted the programmes which have been available in these unprecedented times.

Members also acknowledged the work and support put in place for schools to

support the wellbeing of staff and pupils through these uncertain times, and Members thanked the Officer for her update.
Members **RESOLVED** to note the verbal update.

9 **2019-2020 Year End Position / Progress on the Annual Governance Statement**

The Service Director Finance and Improvement Services (Rhondda Cynon Taf) outlined the Treasurer's Report which provided Members with the draft Statement of Accounts for 2019/20 which also incorporated the 2019/20 Annual Governance Statement along with the draft outturn position for the year.

The Joint Committee considered the Report and after discussion Members of the Central South Consortium Joint Committee **RESOLVED** to:

- Approve the earmark reserve request set out at paragraph 3.4 of the report;
- Agree the approach to utilise the resources available to contribute to school improvement activities as set out in (paragraph 3.5) of the report;
- Note the draft Statement of Accounts for the Central South Consortium for the year-ending 31st March 2020 (Appendix 1) and the draft outturn position for the year (Section 4 – Table 2 of the report); and
- Approve the 2019/20 Annual Governance Statement (as incorporated within the draft 2019/20 Statement of Accounts).

10 **Central South Consortium Internal Audit Report**

The Deputy Managing Director Central South Consortium provided Members of the Joint Committee with the Internal Audit report issued by the Regional Internal Audit Shared Service (RIASS) to the Central South Consortium during 2019/20 in respect of the General Ledger.

The Deputy Managing Director Central South Consortium explained that Internal Audit plays an important role in providing independent assurance on the systems of internal control operating within the Central South Consortium.

Members were informed that based on the work undertaken by the RIASS during the year in respect of the General Ledger audit assignment, no recommendations for improvement were reported.

After considering the report Members of the Central South Consortium Joint Committee **RESOLVED** to acknowledge the Internal Audit report issued during 2019/20.

11 **Freedom of Information Requests**

The Deputy Managing Director Central South Consortium updated Members on the number of Freedom of Information Request that had been received and responded to by the Consortium during 2019/20.

It was explained that for the financial year 2019/20 the Consortium had received 2 Freedom of Information Requests, which were dealt with within the required timescale and no subsequent queries were received.

Members considered the report and **RESOLVED** to acknowledge the information.

12 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

13 Central South Consortium Risk Register

The Committee considered the Central South Consortium Joint Education Service Risk Register as at June 2020.

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

This meeting closed at 12:10

**CLLR C. SMITH
CHAIR.**