



Minutes of the Meeting of the Central South Consortium Joint Education Service Joint Committee held at the Ty Dysgu, Nantgarw on Friday 15th September 2017 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)

Council Officers in Attendance

Ms P Ham - Director of Learning & Skills (Vale of Glamorgan County Borough Council)
Mrs E. Thomas – Director of Education & Lifelong Learning (Rhondda Cynon Taf)
Mr. P. Griffiths – Service Director, Performance & Improvement (Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council)

Also in Attendance

Mr M. Glavin – Managing Director (Central South Consortium)
Ms. L. Blatchford – Business Manager (Central South Consortium)
Ms A. Brychan – Policy and Strategy Officer (Central South Consortium)
Mr M. Jones – Wales Audit Office
Mr C. Rees – Wales Audit Office

18. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received from Mr P Orders (Cardiff City Council)

19. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

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

20. MINUTES

RESOLVED to approve as an accurate record, the minutes of the Central South Joint Education Committee Service held on the 4th July 2017.

21. ANNOUNCEMENT

The Chair announced that the Wales Audit Office would present their reports ahead of the summary of performance and therefore it was agreed to consider the agenda out of sequence.

22. WALES AUDIT OFFICE – AUDIT OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Mr. M. Jones, Wales Audit Office, presented to Members of the Joint Committee his report in respect of the Audit of Financial Statements for the Central South Consortium for the 2016/17 financial year. He introduced his colleague, Mr Carwyn Rees, who had led the audit team. Mr Jones outlined the purpose of the report and thanked the Consortium and its staff for their continued support and good work throughout the course of the audit.

Mr Jones reported that there were no misstatements and anything identified has been amended.

Mr M. Jones reminded the Joint Committee that at its meeting last year Members were requested to have regard to the long period over which the balance of redundancy costs would be paid back. He was pleased to report that the redundancies for 2016/17 had been fully funded from funds within the year and that the Lead Authority Section 151 Officer had confirmed that any new redundancies should ideally be paid for from within the annual budget, or where this is not possible, the repayment period should be limited to 2 to 3 years. Mr. Jones referred the Committee to Appendix 4 of the report that set out the recommendations arising from the 2016/17 audit work.

Following discussions, it was **RESOLVED** to support the recommendations made by the Wales Audit Office.

23. SUMMARY OF PERFORMANCE

With the aid of Power Point slides the Managing Director of the Central South Consortium presented a summary of Performance and responses to Key Stage 4 Data under the following headings:-

- Foundation Phase – Regional Performance
- Foundation Phase – Areas of Learning
- Foundation Phase – Gender Performance
- Foundation Phase – eFSM vs non eFSM
- Key stage 2 – Regional Performance
- Key Stage 2 – Core Subjects
- Key Stage 2 – Gender Performance
- Key stage 2 - eFSM vs non eFSM
- Key Stage 3 – Regional Performance
- Key Stage 3 – Core Subjects
- Key Stage 3 – Gender Performance
- Key Stage 3 - eFSM vs non eFSM
- Unverified Data for KS4

- Key Stage 4 – Regional Performance
- Key Stage 4 – Performance Measures
- Key Stage 4 – Gender Performance
- Key Stage 4 - eFSM vs non eFSM
- CSC: Gap eFSM vs non eFSM
- Response to KS4 Data
- Key Stage 5 – Regional Performance
- Key Stage 5 – Performance Measures

The Managing Director advised that the summary of performance represented a snapshot of the work that is being carried out in schools. It was reported that the difference between the performance of boys and girls shows that girls are still outperforming the boys across all the phases and the gap between those pupils entitled to FSM and those who are not has narrowed and is closing year on year but work needs to continue in this area.

The Managing Director outlined the data relating to KS4 performance which he had measured against last year's results, which showed that the levels within every Local Authority at KS4 have dropped. He advised that Challenge Advisors will be visiting schools to discuss the reasons for the drop at this level. He suggested it may be due to a change in the performance measures and how the performance indicators are being collected and read with some schools raising concern at the lack of time provided to prepare for the new measures. The Managing Director emphasised that support for schools is in place such as collecting recalled papers and question analysis, particularly in areas of learning.

It was **RESOLVED** to note the summary of performance and responses to Key Stage 4 Data.

24. CENTRAL SOUTH CONSORTIUM BUSINESS PLAN

The Managing Director provided the Joint Committee with a summary and evaluation of the Central South Consortium Business Plan for 2016/2017 and an update with regard to the Impact Monitoring of the new 2017/2018 Business Plan.

The Joint Committee was reminded that it agreed the business plan for 2016/2017 at its meeting held in March 2016 and has monitored its implementation throughout the year. For the benefit of Members a summary of progress was included within the report which showed all targets met in green and those improved areas in yellow. The Managing Director explained that the two areas which were not delivered include the recruitment of teachers, particularly in Mathematics and the attendance group.

Following evaluation of the business plan for 2016/17 it was **RESOLVED** to note the progress made in implementing the business plan 2016/17 and the impact it has had.

The Joint Committee was reminded that it had agreed the business plan for 2017/18 on the 14th March 2017, taking in the 5 improvement priorities. The Managing

Director reported that there has been an improved process for monitoring arrangements with greater involvement of staff who have driven progress of the plan. Regular meetings with the 'drive team' and the operations manager have improved progress and Members were provided with an update as at the summer term.

It was **RESOLVED** to note progress made in implementing the business plan.

25. CENTRAL SOUTH CONSORTIUM RISK REGISTER

The Managing Director presented the report which outlined the proposed changes to the Risk Register and the Joint Committee was asked to approve those changes identified by the senior leadership team.

The Managing Director explained that the Senior Leadership Team has been actively involved in reviewing the risk register and for ease of reference he highlighted two of the more significant changes to the register:-

- Inspection arrangements are changing – consequently the risk has changed to medium; and
- It is recommended that risk 15 is removed from the next register as it is now out of date.

The Joint Committee considered the risk register and discussed the Local Government Reform and in conclusion it was **RESOLVED** to agree the risk register subject to the re wording as referred to by Members.

26. PROGRESS AGAINST THE ESTYN RECOMMENDATIONS & ESTYN MONITORING VISIT

The Managing Director presented four reports outlining progress against each of the four recommendations and a fifth report which addressed other developmental needs highlighted within the inspection report. The Director referred the Joint Committee to a table which summarised progress made against each recommendation.

The Managing Director advised that Estyn's monitoring visit is due to take place on Monday, 18th for three days concluding with feedback to the chair of the CSC Joint Committee, the Lead Director, the Lead Chief Executive and the Managing Director

Following consideration of the report it was **RESOLVED** to note the progress made in addressing each of the recommendations.

27. CENTRAL SOUTH CONSORTIUM GRANTS REPORT

The Business Manager, Central South Consortium, presented her report which provided members of the Joint Committee with an update on the grants to be received by the Consortium in 2017/18. Members were asked to approve the distribution of grants as detailed in Section 4 of the report.

The Business Manager highlighted the further revision to the Education Improvement Grant for Schools 2017/18 set out at 4.2 of the report.

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

28. STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2017

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 2017.

The Service Director explained the reason for not convening a meeting of the Joint Committee within the laid down timescale of 30th June 2017 to consider the unaudited accounts but confirmed that the meeting was convened at the earliest opportunity (i.e. on the 4th July 2017) and the Wales Audit Office had been kept informed. He added that the regulations require that the Joint Committee approve the audited Statement of Accounts by the 30th September 2017.

The Joint Committee was informed that the updated Central South Consortium Statement of Accounts 2016/17 was attached at Appendix 1 which reflected a number of amendments further to the Wales Audit Office undertaking its audit. The Service Director – Performance and Improvement also drew Members attention to the ‘Letter of Representation’, attached at Appendix 2, and the ‘Audit enquiries letter to those charged with governance and management’ attached at Appendix 2a.

The Service Director went on to inform Members that the audited final outturn position for the 2016/17 financial year was a nil variance and the level of general reserve balances stood at £129k as at 31st March 2017.

It was **RESOLVED** to:-

1. Approve the Statement of Accounts for the financial year 2016/17 (Appendix 1) and associated Letter of Representation of the Joint Committee (Appendix 2) that includes the Audit enquiries letter to those charged with governance and management (Appendix 2a); and
2. Note the audited final outturn position for the Joint Committee for the 2016/17 financial year and the level of General Reserve Balances held.

29. 2017/2018 BUDGET

The Service Director, Performance and Improvement presented the report of the Treasurer in respect of the 2017/2018 budget for the Central South Consortium Joint Education Service. Members were asked to consider, and if appropriate, approve virements to the 2017/18 revenue budget and were provided with an update on the projected outturn for 2017/18 together with a summary of 2017/18 grant funding.

The Service Director, Performance and Improvement highlighted the £211k projected overspend in respect of redundancy costs incurred in 2017/18 to date and explained that this was associated with a programme of agreed restructuring within the Service. The Service Director requested that Members note and endorse the approach to funding future redundancy costs should they arise, as set out in the report.

The Service Director – Performance and Improvement went on to inform Members that the full year projected outturn position (projected as at July 2017) was a £99k overspend and that a review of all areas of income and expenditure was underway to bring expenditure back in line with the approved budget. The Service Director added that the outcome of the review would be included in the next Budget Monitoring Report to the Joint Committee.

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

1. Note and approve the proposed virements within the 2017/18 Budget.
2. Note the current outturn position for 2017/18.
3. Note and endorse the approach to fund future redundancy costs, should they arise.
4. Note the current grant position for 2017/18.

30. OTHER BUSINESS

The Chair provided the Cabinet Members who are new to their roles with the opportunity to receive additional information in relation to the agenda items discussed and added that there would be a pre meeting with the Cabinet Members prior to the next Joint Committee on the 5th December 2017.

**Cllr S Merry
Chair**

The meeting terminated at 11.40am