

## ITEM

<b>MEETING</b>	COUNCIL LANGUAGE COMMITTEE
<b>DATE</b>	17 January 2013
<b>TITLE</b>	Welsh in Education Strategic Plan
<b>PURPOSE</b>	Consider the contents of the final draft version of the Plan
<b>RECOMMENDATION</b>	For approval
<b>REPORT BY</b>	Dewi R Jones, Head of Education
<b>CABINET MEMBER</b>	CLlr Sian Gwenllian

### **Introduction and context**

In December 1996, Gwynedd Council published a Welsh Language Plan in compliance with the requirements of the 1993 Welsh Language Act. It was approved by the Welsh Language Board, and it states how the Council, in its dealings with the public, gives equal treatment to Welsh and English.

Under Section 1 and Section 2 of the 1993 Welsh Language Act, the LA was required to provide a Welsh Language Plan that specifically deals with Education [Welsh Education Plan]. Gwynedd Council's initial Welsh Education Plan received approval in November 1998. Following a three year implementation phase of the Welsh Education Plan, a second plan was prepared that was approved in August 2004. A review of the plan was held in 2010 and this Welsh Education Plan was approved by the Welsh Language Board on 30 June 2011.

Local authorities are now required to prepare, amend and present **Welsh in Education Strategic Plans**. These plans will outline how local authorities intend to achieve the Welsh Government's objectives and targets that are set out in the Welsh-Medium Education Strategy.

This Strategy is interpreted within the context of Gwynedd Council Language Policy and thus achieve the outcomes. The authority will ensure that the principal elements are reflected and receive due focus in the Strategic Plan.

### **Welsh in Education Strategic Plans**

The Plans will enable the Welsh Government to monitor how LA's respond to the requirement to implement the Strategy's objectives and contribute towards them through:

- ensuring that every stage of the LA's education processes give full consideration to Welsh medium and bilingual education;
- enhance Welsh medium and bilingual education through improved planning;
- gradually shift the support service away from the traditional functions of 'athrawon bro' towards a new training and mentoring service;
- ensure that Welsh medium and bilingual education support services are presented on a consortia basis in the near future (*To be implemented from April 2013*);
- raise standards and enhance the use of Welsh amongst children and young people (*Implement The Language Charter's requirements*); and
- demonstrate progress in meeting the Welsh Medium Education Strategy's specific targets.

The aim of the Strategic Plan is to:

- expect that LA's be accountable to the Welsh Government for planning Welsh medium and bilingual and Welsh Language provision;
- reflect the Strategy's objectives;
- profile the current situation, outline the appropriate activities and demonstrate progress;
- be accessible and useful to LA's; and
- demonstrate clear progress over three years in every local authority and consortium area towards achieving the Strategy's targets.

The targets contained in the Welsh Medium Education Strategy are the focal-point of the Strategic Plan. The Plan will focus on the following aspects and these will serve as clear objectives for our work programme:

- Set a robust foundation for Welsh during nursery and early years education. ( 98.6% of seven year olds are taught through the medium of Welsh.)
- Ensure progression in Welsh as a subject and as a learning medium from KS2 to KS3. (100% of pupils continue to improve their language skills when transferring from primary to secondary school.)
- Strengthen implementation in those areas/establishments/schools where data shows that this is a requirement.
- Strengthen use of the language cohorts as a progression planning tool in secondary schools.
- Introduce Welsh Baccalaureate at levels 1, 2 and 3 at the secondary schools.
- Confirm the implementation of the Language Charter in all of our primary schools, strongly focussing on training the workforce developing the medium and methodology elements.

The authority will be required to report on the progress of the Strategic Plan and that it is measurable progress. The life-span of these schemes will tie in with the targets stipulated in the Welsh Medium Education Strategy, up to 2015.

### **Recommendation**

A copy of the final draft version of the 'Gwynedd Welsh in Education Strategic Plan' is appended for the attention of the Language Committee members.

Members are asked to consider and approve the contents of the final draft version of the Plan.