

GWE JOINT COMMITTEE DECISION NOTICE



Date of meeting:

26 February 2020

SUBJECT

Item 5 :NATIONAL CATEGORISATION

DECISION

It was resolved to note the information in the report and to express concern regarding the system nationally. Members of the Joint Committee were requested to raise their concerns with the Minister for Education at the Welsh Local Government Association Meeting. The Management Board was also requested to conduct a review of the system locally.

REASONS FOR THE DECISION

The categorisation process is one that the Welsh Government is in the process of reviewing within the evaluation and improvement arrangements. Every primary, secondary and special school are placed in one of four coloured categories in relation to support. All schools will receive a tailored programme of support based on these categories. Parents and the press misinterpret the colours linked to the support category when the categories are published on 'My Local School' website.

DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTEREST AND ANY RELEVANT DISPENSATIONS APPROVED BY THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE

No declarations of personal interest or relevant dispensations were received.

ANY CONSULTATIONS UNDERTAKEN PRIOR TO MAKING THE DECISION

The Statutory Officers were consulted to seek their views, which have been included in the report.

GWE JOINT COMMITTEE DECISION NOTICE



Date of meeting:

26 February 2020

SUBJECT

Item 6:GwE BUDGET 2019-20 - QUARTER 3 REVIEW

DECISION

The report was accepted.

REASONS FOR THE DECISION

Members of the Joint Committee need to be updated on the latest financial review of the GwE budget for the 2019/20 budgetary year.

DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTEREST AND ANY RELEVANT DISPENSATIONS APPROVED BY THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE

No declarations of personal interest or relevant dispensations were received.

ANY CONSULTATIONS UNDERTAKEN PRIOR TO MAKING THE DECISION

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Date of meeting:

26 February 2020

SUBJECT

Item 7 :GwE BUDGET 2020-2021

DECISION

It was resolved to adopt the baseline budget for 2020/21 as submitted in Appendix 1 of the report.

REASONS FOR THE DECISION

In order to operate effectively, the Joint Committee needs to adopt the budget created to finance GwE for 2020/21.

DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTEREST AND ANY RELEVANT DISPENSATIONS APPROVED BY THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE

No declarations of personal interest or relevant dispensations were received.

ANY CONSULTATIONS UNDERTAKEN PRIOR TO MAKING THE DECISION

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Date of meeting:

26 February 2020

SUBJECT

Item 8 :EDUCATION IMPROVEMENT GRANT - REVIEW

DECISION

Resolved:

1. Delay in considering a review of EIG Foundation Phase funding (£16,734,803 delegated to schools in 2019/20) distribution until Welsh Government clarifies its position on whether the foundation phase grant will eventually transfer to settlement or not.
 2. Conduct a review of the EIG School Effectiveness Grant funding distribution (£5,315,978 delegated to schools in 2019/20).
 3. Review the current use of the non-delegated elements of the EIG
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REASONS FOR THE DECISION

In 2015, the Welsh Government decided to merge 11 grant finance streams that already existed into one main grant, namely the Education Improvement Grant. Some of the grants were general and others were targeted to schools in special circumstances. Some grants were delegated completely to schools while others remained central with local authorities to provide targeted services to schools or school staff.

The grant continues to be delegated on a historic basis and the situation currently causes a risk to the consortium and is noted in the risk register. There is a need to ensure that appropriate alleviation methods are in operation to manage the risk.

DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTEREST AND ANY RELEVANT DISPENSATIONS APPROVED BY THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE

No declarations of personal interest or relevant dispensations were received.

ANY CONSULTATIONS UNDERTAKEN PRIOR TO MAKING THE DECISION

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Date of meeting:

26 February 2020

SUBJECT

Item 9 :EDUCATION IMPROVEMENT GRANT 2020-2021

DECISION

It was resolved to defer the decision in order to have guidance from the region's Chief Executives on financing additional resources for the Wrexham Post Inspection Action Plan and an urgent meeting will take place to determine this matter.

REASONS FOR THE DECISION

GwE will receive an indicative allocation of £27,103,164 for the Education Improvement Grant in 2020/21, this follows confirmation from the Welsh Government that there is an increase for Foundation Phase. The Welsh Government is expected to announce its final budget on 25 February.

It was added that the current terms and conditions note that Challenge Advisers offer support and a challenge to schools to ensure that school development plans are a proper reflection of their journey towards improvement and local priorities.

Additional resources are required as part of the Wrexham Post Inspection Action Plan and the Joint Committee was requested to consider additional resource sources to fund this additional cost.

DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTEREST AND ANY RELEVANT DISPENSATIONS APPROVED BY THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE

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ANY CONSULTATIONS UNDERTAKEN PRIOR TO MAKING THE DECISION

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Date of meeting:

26 February 2020

SUBJECT

Item 10:2019-2020 BUSINESS PLAN - QUARTER 3 MONITORING REPORT

DECISION

The monitoring report for quarter 3 was accepted.

REASONS FOR THE DECISION

The regional business plan states the priority areas for improvement across the region. A quarterly progress report against the Business Plan is reported to the Joint Committee

DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTEREST AND ANY RELEVANT DISPENSATIONS APPROVED BY THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE

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ANY CONSULTATIONS UNDERTAKEN PRIOR TO MAKING THE DECISION

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Date of meeting:

26 February 2020

SUBJECT

Item 11:GwE BUSINESS PLAN 2020-2023 - REGIONAL PRIORITIES

DECISION

The draft Business Plan was approved as well as the regional priorities for 2020-2023.

REASONS FOR THE DECISION

The regional business plan notes the priority areas for improvement across the region. The priorities are a combination of improving provision, leadership and school outcomes, as well as achieving the reform journey.

The regional business plan is for a period of three years. The plan outlines the main priorities and milestones, a summary of the consortium's strategic objectives, priorities for improvement and a high level strategic risk register.

DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTEREST AND ANY RELEVANT DISPENSATIONS APPROVED BY THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE

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SUBJECT

Item 12 :GwE RISK REGISTER

DECISION

The Risk Register was noted and accepted.

REASONS FOR THE DECISION

The purpose of the risk register is to formalise the process of identifying risks and taking subsequent actions to alleviate them. By controlling regional risks effectively GwE can support the region's objectives, make effective use of resources and achieve the outcomes as intended.

The risk register is a live document and is regularly reviewed. It is submitted annually to the Joint Committee, and when new risks are identified the Joint Committee need to be aware of these.

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SUBJECT

Item 13 :WORKING TOGETHER TO IMPROVE SCHOOLS

DECISION

It was resolved to conduct a review of the current role of the GwE Core Leader as well as information sharing systems between Local Authorities and GwE.

REASONS FOR THE DECISION

At a recent meeting of the GwE Management Board it was recommended to review the Core Leader's role and the structure across the region, together with the sharing of information between Local Authorities and GwE.

DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTEREST AND ANY RELEVANT DISPENSATIONS APPROVED BY THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE

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SUBJECT

Item 14: CALENDAR OF MEETINGS 2020/21

DECISION

The proposed calendar of meetings was approved and the Chair was given authority to make any changes if need be

REASONS FOR THE DECISION

The Joint Committee meets as required to satisfy the requirements of the Service in accordance with the Service timetable on condition that a minimum of three meetings take place in a year.

DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTEREST AND ANY RELEVANT DISPENSATIONS APPROVED BY THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE

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REASONS FOR THE DECISION

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