



REPORT TO THE JOINT COMMITTEE

26 MAY 2021

Report by: GwE Managing Director & GwE Lead Director / Chair of Management Board

Subject: GwE Business Plan 2021 - 2022

1.0 Purpose of the Report

1.1 To present the 2021-2022 Regional Business Plan to the Joint Committee members.

2.0 Background

2.1 Attached is the Regional Business Plan for 2021-2022. The Business Plan sets out our vision, values and behaviours, the priority areas for improvement across the region along with a high level strategic risk register.

2.2 The regional priorities and areas for improvement are strongly embedded in the findings of internal self-evaluation processes, external reviews of our current practice and direction of travel and consultation with Headteachers and Local Authorities. The Business Plan also addresses the strategic priorities of Welsh Government and the Local Authorities, which are within the remit of GwE. In addition, GwE will work in partnership with the Local Authorities to support additional local priorities, as appropriate.

2.3 Consideration is also given to the viewpoints and priorities of other middle tier partners such as Estyn, Qualifications Wales, WJEC, the National Academy for Educational Leadership (NEAL), Initial Teacher Education (ITE) and the Education Workforce Council (EWC).

2.4 The overarching priorities for 2021-2022 were agreed with the Joint Committee on 24 February 2021.

3.0 Considerations

3.1 The priorities are a combination of improving provision, leadership and outcomes in schools, along with realising the reform journey. In terms of the reform journey, we have acted in an integrated manner in every aspect of our work from the outset. No element of the reform journey can be in isolation.

3.2 Our strategic priorities recognise present regional and national priorities. The four purposes of the Curriculum for Wales should be the starting point and aspiration for schools as they prepare to design the new curriculum. The aim of our priorities is to support schools as they are working towards these four purposes.

3.3 The GwE Business Planning Framework ensures clarity, accountability and strategic coordination in the delivery of the priorities locally, regionally and nationally. Throughout the year, reports associated with our priority streams within the Business Plan will be reported through our governance groups. Progress against the Regional Business Plan will be reported on a quarterly basis to the Joint Committee.

3.4 In addition, each Local Authority has a detailed business plan which has been agreed by the head of service and core adviser. The support and provision available to each school in the region is outlined and how they contribute to local authority priorities, in line with their Corporate Plans and scrutiny programmes. GwE will work in partnership with the Local Authorities to support additional local priorities, as appropriate, and that are within the remit of GwE. Progress against regional priorities will be reported on a quarterly basis to the Local Authorities, along with a specific local authority overview.

3.5 Detailed service plans underpin these priorities, which note the support and provision available to all schools in the region. How and when each priority will be achieved is outlined, and expectations set in terms of next steps in realising the reform journey. Progress in terms of implementation, outcome/impact and the expenditure profile will be reported on a quarterly basis.

4.0 Recommendations

4.1 The Joint Committee is asked to approve the Regional Business Plan for 2021 – 2022.

5.0 Financial Implications

5.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report. GwE will operate within the current financial resources.

6.0 Equalities Impact

6.1 There are no new equalities implications arising from this report.

7.0 Personnel Implications

7.1 There are no new personnel implications arising from this report.

8.0 Consultation Undertaken

8.1 Consultation with County Quality Boards, GwE Team, Headteachers Strategic Forums, GwE Management Board and Joint Committee.

9.0 Appendices

9.1 Appendix 1 – GwE Regional Business Plan 2021 - 2022

OPINION OF THE STATUTORY OFFICERS

Monitoring Officer:

Nothing to add from a propriety perspective.

Statutory Finance Officer:

I appreciate the Business Plan, which notes clear responsibility for appropriate action in the fields of business, risk, value for money, amongst others. I note that the author states, in paragraph 5 of the report, that no financial implications arise from this report. Whilst it will be challenging to implement every aspect of the Business Plan, it is expected that GwE will fund any financial implications within its current budget.