

ITEM 5 A

MEETING	COUNCIL LANGUAGE COMMITTEE
DATE	22/06/2021
TITLE	Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2022-2032
PURPOSE	To consider and comment on the contents of the draft Plan
RECOMMENDATION	Accept the report
AUTHOR/DUR	Garem Jackson, Head of Education
CABINET MEMBER	Councillor Cemlyn Williams

Introduction and context

Under section 84 of the School Standards and Organisation Act (2013), and to comply with the Welsh in Education Strategic Plans (Wales) Regulations 2019, all Local Education Authorities are required to prepare and submit a Welsh in Education Strategic Plan, that outlines the vision for Welsh medium education within the authority over the next ten years, as well as the main strategic objectives for this period. These first plans came into effect on 1 April 2014 for a period of 3 years to March 2017, and the Plan was updated for the following three years. Due to the unprecedented circumstances of the Covid-19 Pandemic, its duration was extended by one additional year. This Plan will operate for a period of ten years from September 2022 to 31st August 2032. Due regard has been given to the statutory guidance issued by the Welsh Ministers in setting our targets.

The Strategy is interpreted in the context of Gwynedd Council's Language Policy thereby achieving the outcomes. The Authority will ensure that key elements are reflected upon and appropriately addressed in the Strategic Plan.

Welsh in Education Strategic Plans

The Plans will enable the Welsh Government to monitor how local authorities respond to and contribute to the need to implement the aims of the Strategy by:

- ensuring that all stages of local authority education processes take full account of Welsh-medium education;
- expanding Welsh-medium education, where required, on the basis of better planning;
- ensure that Welsh-medium education support services are delivered on a consortia basis;
- improve standards and extend the use of Welsh among children and young people;
- demonstrate progress against the specific targets of the Welsh Medium Education Strategy.

The Strategic Plan aims to:

- expect local authorities to be accountable to the Welsh Government for planning Welsh-medium and Welsh-language education provision;
- reflect the aims of the Strategy;
- illustrate the current situation, outline the appropriate activities and show progress;
- be convenient and useful to local authorities;
- demonstrate clear progress over ten years in each local authority and consortium area towards achieving the Strategy's targets.

The Plans focus on the targets outlined in the Strategy and the Authority is expected to report annually on their progress against the following outcomes:

WELSH IN EDUCATION STRATEGIC PLAN: OUTCOMES	
1	More nursery children/3 year olds receive their education through the medium of Welsh
2	More reception class children/ 5 year olds receive their education through the medium of Welsh
3	More children continue to improve their Welsh language skills when transferring from one stage of their statutory education to another
4	More learners study for assessed qualifications in Welsh (as a subject) and subjects through the medium of Welsh
5	More opportunities for learners to use Welsh in different contexts in school
6	An increase in Welsh-medium education provision for learners with additional learning needs (in accordance with duties determined by the ALN Act)
7	Increase the number of teaching staff able to teach Welsh (as a subject) and teach through the medium of Welsh

Welsh in Education Informal Consultation Timetable

WHEN	WHO
27 May 2021	Education Management Team
9 June 2021	Primary Headteachers
9 June 2021	Secondary Headteachers
22 June 2021	Language Committee
29 June 2021 – 1 September 2021	Consider and incorporate comments from informal consultation

Recommendation

A draft copy of the 'Gwynedd Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2022-2032' is attached for the attention of members of the Language Committee, seeking their views as part of the consultation before submitting the draft version to the Welsh Government by January 2022 .