

## Cyngor Sir CEREDIGION County Council

<b>REPORT TO:</b>	<b>Learning Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee</b>
<b>DATE:</b>	30:03:2023
<b>LOCATION:</b>	Council Chamber, Penmorfa
<b>TITLE:</b>	Action Plan - Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2022-32
<b>PURPOSE OF THE REPORT:</b>	To receive the Action Plan for the Welsh in Education Strategic Plan
<b>REASON THE COMMITTEE HAS REQUESTED THE INFORMATION:</b>	For decision

In accordance with section 84 of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 every Local Authority in Wales is expected to submit a Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) to the Welsh Government. The plan drawn up complies with the Welsh Government Welsh in Education Strategic Plans regulations 2019; the Welsh in Education Strategic Plan was adopted by Ceredigion Council Cabinet on 22nd February 2022. The plan was approved by the Welsh Government on 20 July 2022.

It was strategically planned for the following areas to develop and strengthen the Welsh language:

**Outcome 1:** More nursery children/three year olds educated through the medium of Welsh

**Outcome 2:** More reception class children/five year olds educated through the medium of Welsh

**Outcome 3:** More children continue to improve their Welsh language skills when transferring from one stage of their statutory education to another

**Outcome 4:** More learners study for assessed qualifications in Welsh (as a subject) and subjects through the medium of Welsh

**Outcome 5:** More opportunities for learners to use Welsh in different contexts in school

**Outcome 6:** An increase in the provision of Welsh-medium education for pupils with additional learning needs (ALN) (in accordance with the duties imposed by the Additional Learning Needs and Education Tribunal (Wales) Act 2018)

**Outcome 7:** An increase in the number of teaching staff able to teach Welsh (as a subject) and teach through the medium of Welsh

Following its approval under section 85(7) of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 local authorities must take all reasonable steps to implement their WESP and prepare an action plan which will be monitored annually in the form of a review report.

The Action Plan sets out the Local Authority's position in 2022 in these areas and explains the aim in 5 years and how this is achieved. Additionally, the aims for the end of the Plan's life in a decade are set out. The Action Plan presented specifies a 5-year overview of the procedures, and there is a more detailed operational plan for the first two years noting the responsibilities of specific staff to fulfil the necessary actions.

The draft action plan was submitted to the Government on 23 December 2022. Confirmation was received on 28 February 2023 stating that the actions and timetable are clear and appropriate. The comments received have been incorporated into the action plan presented. The Welsh Government considers the action plan to be a live, flexible document that will need to be amended along the way according to local needs and developments. The action plan will be monitored every term by the Welsh in Education Strategic Plan Forum and sub-committees as necessary.

One of the steps set out in the Action Plan is to start the consultation process for changing the language medium in the Foundation Phase of five schools in the county. In order to ensure consistency in the admission age of the five schools it was agreed in the WESP that three schools would change their admission age to 3 years instead of 4 years. In accordance with the 2018 School Organisation Code, consent is required by the Council's Cabinet to start the consultation process and a paper will go before Cabinet on 2.5.23. If consent is given by Cabinet at that meeting, it is aimed to follow the following timetable in terms of the statutory process of carrying out a consultation.

30 March 2023	Scrutiny Committee
2 May 2023	Cabinet
15 September – 30 October 2023	<p>Publishing Consultation Documents</p> <p><b>School Organisation Code 3.4</b>  <i>The consultation document <b>must</b> be published on a school day of the school or schools subject to the proposal and consultees <b>must</b> be given at least 42 days to respond to the document, with at least 20 of these being school days.</i></p>
9 January 2024	<p>Cabinet</p> <p><b>School Organisation Code 3.6</b>  <i>The proposer <b>must</b> publish a consultation report on their website or that of the</i></p>

	<i>relevant local authority. The report <b>must</b> be published at least two weeks prior to the publication of a statutory notice</i>
22 January – 19 February 2024	<b>School Organisation Code 4.1</b> <i>Publishing a statutory notice</i> <i>The statutory notice must be published on a school day but not on a school day which includes a session which is devoted (wholly or mainly) to improving teaching standards or management practices of staff at the school (INSET days). The objection period must include 15 school days (in addition to the day on which it is published). It must be published for 28 days</i>
4 June 2024	Cabinet Decision to proceed or not

**Has an Integrated Impact Assessment been completed?** Yes

**Summary:**

The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 requires public bodies across Wales named in the Act to work towards achieving seven well-being goals, including 'a Wales of vibrant culture where the Welsh language thrives'. There is also a statutory basis to the system for planning Welsh-medium education provision. The Welsh Government has a duty to promote and facilitate the use of the Welsh language and to work towards achieving the well-being goals.

**Wellbeing of Future Generations:**

**Long term:**

Ceredigion County's WESP action plan 2022-32 will be a document that sets out the steps to carry out the actions within the plan with the aim of increasing the number of Welsh speakers in the county by 2032. Short and long term targets and focused actions in the short and long term will have been identified over the period

**Collaboration:**

Collaboration between partners and stakeholders will be at the core of the plan. The main collaboration will be between the authority's officers

and the schools and their governing bodies as well as parents through local consultations (Outcome 1 and 2)

**Involvement:** Stakeholders and partners will be involved throughout the planning period and any consultation periods

**Prevention:** The procedures that will prevent any problems that may arise or escalate throughout the plan period will be set out in it

**Integration:** In essence, the proposal involves supporting Ceredigion County Council's aspiration to strengthen the position of the Welsh language through its Language Strategy. The proposal also supports the Council's Strategic Objectives and the Welsh Government's Strategy, Cymraeg 2050: a million Welsh speakers

**RECOMMENDATION(S):** That the Learning Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee recommends to the Cabinet:

- i) To agree to adopt the Action Plan for the Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2022-2032, to implement it from the beginning of the Summer term 2023 and to review it annually
- ii) That the Action Plan will be monitored through the WESP Language Forum meetings and the Bilingual Futures committee.
- iii) That an annual report on progress against the Action Plan for the Welsh in Education Strategic Plan is presented to the Language Forum, the Bilingual Futures committee, the Learning Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee and to the Cabinet
- iv) In accordance with the School Organisation Code, that the Local Authority starts the process of changing the language medium in the Foundation Phase at Comins Coch, Llwyn yr Eos, St Padarn's, Plascrug and Cei Newydd schools. Additionally, a consultation regarding changing the admission age at

three schools namely Comins Coch, St Padarn's and Cei Newydd will coincide with this. These consultation periods will commence on 15th September 2023.

**REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION(S):** To comply with Section 84 of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 and the Welsh Government Welsh in Education Strategic Plans (Wales) regulations 2019

**CONTACT NAME:** Meinir Ebbsworth

**DATE OF REPORT:**

**ACRONYMS:**