

CEREDIGION COUNTY COUNCIL

Report to:	Cabinet
Date of meeting:	2.5.23
Title:	Action Plan - Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2022-32
Purpose of the report:	To receive the Action Plan for the Welsh in Education Strategic Plan
For:	Decision
Cabinet Portfolio and Cabinet Member:	Councillor Wyn Thomas, Cabinet Member for Schools, Lifelong Learning and Skills

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	Publishing Consultation Documents School Organisation Code 3.4 <i>The consultation document must be published on a school day of the school or schools subject to the proposal and consultees must be given at least 42 days to respond to the document, with at least 20 of these being school days</i>
9 January 2024	Cabinet School Organisation Code 3.6 <i>The proposer must publish a consultation report on their website or that of the relevant local authority. The report must be published at least two weeks prior to the publication of a statutory notice</i>
22 January – 19 February 2024	School Organisation Code 4.1 <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? If not, please state why Yes, for the Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP)

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):	<p>That Cabinet agree:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. 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 statutory consultation process of changing the language medium in the Foundation Phase at Comins Coch, Llwyn yr Eos, St Padarn's, Plascrug and Cei Newydd school; v. that the consultation regarding changing the admission age at three schools namely Comins Coch, St Padarn's and Cei Newydd, to commence on 15th September 2023.
Reasons for decision:	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
Overview and Scrutiny:	The recommendations were discussed in the Scrutiny Overview and Committee on 30.03.23
Policy Framework:	Section 84 of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 and the Welsh Government Welsh in Education Strategic Plans (Wales) regulations 2019
Corporate Well-being Objectives:	Providing the best start in life and enabling learning at all ages
Finance and Procurement implications:	Within departmental budget
Legal Implications:	Section 84 of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 and the Welsh Government Welsh in Education Strategic Plans (Wales) regulations 2019

Staffing implications:	Not applicable
Property / asset implications:	Not applicable
Risk(s):	Not applicable
Statutory Powers:	Section 84 of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 and the Welsh Government Welsh in Education Strategic Plans (Wales) regulations 2019
Background Papers:	Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2022-2032
Appendices:	Appendix A- Action Plan- Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 5-year overview
Corporate Lead Officer:	Meinir Ebbsworth, Corporate Lead Officer: Schools and Culture
Reporting Officer:	Meinir Ebbsworth, Corporate Lead Officer: Schools and Culture
Date:	4.4.23



Cyngor Sir
CEREDIGION
County Council



Caru·Love
Ceredigion

Action Plan - Welsh in Education Strategic Plan

5 year overview

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Background Notes

Following the recent approval of our Welsh Language Strategic Plan, we have drawn up this document to facilitate the process of implementing the first half of the plan. Some actions are long-term and ongoing and others are time-specific. Below are the early steps that have been established since September 2022. These steps are key to the actions of the action plan.

- Create an overview and action plan per outcome for two years
- Re-establish a forum and appoint a chairman
- Establish sub-committees to discuss the draft action plans
- Create a timetable for the meetings over the first two years.
- Appoint a member of staff for two years to facilitate and co-ordinate the work of the 5 transitional primary schools

Through our forum, we will monitor the actions and plan every term.

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

Year 1 2022-23	Year 2 2023-24	Year 3 2024-25	Year 4 2025-26	Year 5 2026-27
<p>1.1/1.2/1.3/1.8/1.9/1.10 Improve the skills of individual childminders in Child Care supporting them to attend learning and language improvement courses Child Care – all child care – child minders/day nurseries/wrap-around care to expand Welsh-medium provision – focusing on the Aberystwyth area. Specific plans and resources.</p>				
<p>1.9 Training programme/Language Improvement (Gloywi Iaith)</p> <p>1.10 Immersion</p> <p>1.16 Sufficiency assessment to strengthen and expand the provision</p>	<p>Assess the use and impact of the resource receiving feedback in the form of questionnaires before and after implementation.</p> <p>Refine as necessary.</p> <p>A Programme drawn up and shared with childminders and childcare organisations. Offer training on Immersion methodology as Professional Learning</p> <p>Assess the use and impact of the Resource receiving feedback in the form of questionnaires before and after implementation</p> <p>Refine as necessary.</p>			
<p>1.4/1.11 Establish Further Education Colleges partnership with Mudiad Meithrin to increase the Welsh-medium workforce in the childcare sector. Mudiad Meithrin Apprenticeships.</p>	<p>Ensure that a member of the College and Mudiad Meithrin are executive members of the forum.</p>			
<p>1.5/1.6 Prepare Consultation 1 – Change language medium x 5 schools - Comins Coch, St Padarn's, Cei Newydd, Plascrug and Llwyn yr Eos</p> <p>Consultation 2 – Nursery Classes – x 3 schools - Comins Coch, St Padarn's, Cei Newydd</p> <p>Appoint a Welsh Language Support Teacher to co-ordinate the work.</p>	<p>Undertake a Consultation in October 2023 and plan towards its implementation in accordance with the responses.</p> <p>Request Cabinet approval to go to consultation in May 2023.</p> <p>Consultation 1 – Change language medium x 5 schools - Comins Coch, St Padarn's, Cei Newydd, Plascrug and Llwyn yr Eos</p>	<p>Action following Consultation 1</p> <p>Change language medium x 5 Nursery - September 2024</p> <p>Consultation 2 – Nursery Classes – Comins Coch, St Padarn's, Cei Newydd</p>	<p>Welsh-medium Provision – Reception</p>	<p>Welsh-medium Provision – Year 1</p>

	Consultation 2 – Nursery Classes – Comins Coch, St Padarn’s and Cei Newydd			
1.7 Additional Transitional School Support Officer to work with Dechrau’n Deg – Penparcau and the team to support the work	A Programme drawn up and shared with childminders and childcare organisation. Offer training on Immersion methodology as Professional Learning Assess the use and impact of the resource receiving feedback from Flying Start Penparcau staff and the officer Refine as necessary.			
1.12/1.13 Prepare - Ysgol Dyffryn Aeron – new schools – Welsh-medium - 3 year olds	Prepare - ysgol Dyffryn Aeron – new schools – Welsh-medium - 3 year olds	Ysgol Dyffryn Aeron – new schools – Welsh-medium - 3 year olds	In operation – School’s marketing campaign – collaboration with Mudiad Meithrin/Child Care	
1.14 Pre 2-3 year old children – expand the provision - ‘Set up and Succeed’ and the Child Care team focusing on the Aberystwyth area specifically				
1.15 Cyngor Sir Ceredigion website – the advantages of speaking Welsh – collaboration between the education and child care departments. Share the ‘Byw a Bod: One Life Two Languages’ information booklet with Mudiad Meithrin/Child Care				
1.17/1/18 Internal Processes – Clic and Admissions information	Operational by Easter admissions			
1.19 Play groups provision. Continue to support specific groups – increase provision and share the team’s digital work. Collaboration between Mudiad Meithrin/Cylch Ti a Fi, Family Centres/Dechrau’n Deg particularly in the Aberystwyth area.				

Outcome 2 : More reception class children/five year olds educated through the medium of Welsh
(Target at the end of the 10 years: all foundation learning children receiving Welsh-medium education)

Year 1 2022-23	Year 2 2023-24	Year 3 2024-25	Year 4 2025-26	Year 5
2.1/2.2/2.3 Support the Consultation (D1) Nursery Classes	<p>Undertake the consultation process To coincide with the Nursery Classes Consultation Undertake a Consultation in October 2023 and plan towards its implementation in accordance with the responses Request Cabinet's approval at the May 2023 meeting to go to Consultation. Consultation 1 – Change language medium x 5 - Comins Coch, St Padarn's, Cei Newydd, Plascrug and Llwyn yr Eos Consultation 2 – Nursery Classes – Comins Coch, St Padarn's and Cei Newydd</p>	<p>Implementation following Consultation 1 Change language medium x 5 - Nurseries - September 2024 Consultation 2 – Nursery Classes – September 2024 Nursery Classes operational</p>	<p>Reception Classes</p>	<p>Year 1</p>
2.17 Following a grant allocation towards the extension at Ysgol Gymraeg Aberystwyth – space for 28 additional primary school pupils – teacher and support teacher at the Language Centre	<p>Building timetable Support for teachers teaching through the medium of Welsh for the first time</p>	<p>Following a grant allocation towards the extension at Ysgol Gymraeg Aberystwyth – space for 28 additional primary school pupils – teacher and support teacher at the Language Centre</p>	<p>Admission of Year 2 pupils to the latecomers/language improvement (Gloywi Iaitth) classes</p>	

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

Year 1 2022-23	Year 2 2023-24	Year 3 2024-25	Year 4 2025-26	Year 5 2026-27
3.7 School categorisation – draw up an action plan to develop the provision over the next 5 years. Appoint a new Welsh Language Support Teacher to facilitate the work over two years.	Implement Primary and Secondary Schools action plans. Monitor the progress of the Action Plans and respond to any challenges Set and monitor practical targets as part of the action plans.			
3.7 - 3.5 - 3.7 Improve progression and numbers studying for qualifications through the medium of Welsh – undertake an audit of the Welsh-medium provision and draw up action plans.	Continue discussions with Governing bodies/support	Take action on discussions with Governing bodies. Consultations in accordance with those.		
3.2 Percentage increase in progression from KS2 to KS3 in the Aberystwyth area	Target years 5 and 6 primary school pupils to transfer to Welsh-medium education and create an accelerated Learning course and provision.	Use bespoke extension building at Ysgol Gymraeg Aberystwyth.	Use bespoke extension building at Ysgol Gymraeg Aberystwyth.	Use bespoke extension building at Ysgol Gymraeg Aberystwyth.
				3.3 Build on the solid foundation laid down in the Foundation Phase so that 7-11 year old pupils continue to develop their language skills.
3.4 Support Mathematics and Science through the medium of Welsh	Support the schools and provide support, training and any resources.			
3.8 Begin support discussions with a Category 1 school	Support by a Welsh Language Support Teacher to draw up the action plan	Monitor the action plan and consult on development across the continuum.		

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

Year 1 2022-23	Year 2 2023-24	Year 3 2024-25	Year 4 2025-26	Year 5 2026-27
4.1 - 4.2 Continue with the current language progression across the County				
4.3 Transfer from the Primary school to the Secondary school in the Aberystwyth area	Monitor transfer targets for KS2/3			
4.4 Welsh language improvement (Gloywi laith) training for teachers lacking confidence.				
4.5 - 4.6 Support schools with the changes following Curriculum for Wales in the Areas of Learning and Experience in Literacy, Language and Communication. Support at school level with specific support relating to planning provision and pedagogy mainly through the support of a Curriculum for Wales Co-ordinator and the Team of Welsh Support Teachers. Promote School to School work Establish cluster networks to ensure there is an agreed understanding on progression principles Ensure that the action plan following categorisation leads schools along a strong and ambitious language continuum.	Continue to work in Partnership with the network of Heads of Departments of Welsh in Secondary Schools.			
4.7 Following categorisation, offer support to schools to increase the provision of subjects through the medium of Welsh				
4.8 Collaborate with schools to ensure that Welsh is offered as an Advanced level course in accordance with the findings of the post-16 Consultation.				
4.9 Collaborate with schools to promote the advantages of studying Welsh as a subject amongst pupils and parents/carers. Share and use national resources.				

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

Year 1 2022-23	Year 2 2023-24	Year 3 2024-25	Year 4 2025-26	Year 5 2026-27
5.1 The Welsh in Education Promotion Officer to lead on the work of the Siarter Iaith and to collaborate with a variety of stakeholders with the specific aim of encouraging the use of Welsh on an informal basis amongst Ceredigion pupils.				
5.2 Confidence Campaign – Welsh in Education Promotion Officer to collaborate with our Secondary schools specifically.	Set up a Working Group to discuss the idea and look at various options. Set a plan	Commence the work	Continue with the work	Review the plan
5.3 Draw up a questionnaire on confidence and perception as a baseline for the above to be completed by the County's Secondary School pupils.	Prepare - Summer term 2023 Publish September 2023	January – analyse and draw up an action plan	Prepare - Summer term 2025 Publish September 2025	January – analyse and draw up an action plan
	5.4 That the vast majority of after-school clubs offer Welsh language provision mainly over the course of this plan.	Collect data and report on progress		
5.5 Collaborate with Ysgol Henry Richard from September 2022 onwards and use and share evidence from the research project 'A study of the out-migration and aspirations of young people from Welsh-speaking areas' to develop positive aspects further.	Request for the research to revisit the Tregaron area to assess whether there has been any change since the last report Share findings			
5.6 Draw up and analyse the Welsh in Education questionnaire every two years in order to collect information and evidence on school needs, linguistic trends, obstacles, details of the Siarter Iaith etc. The questionnaire will offer practical action targets over a period of time. 5.6 a 5.3 Undertake the questionnaires in the same period.	Prepare in the Summer term 2023 Publish in September 2023 Analyse and draw up an action plan, November 2023			
5.7 Establish from scratch a forum for monitoring the implementation of the Welsh in Education Strategic Plan with particular attention to the element of the informal use of Welsh. A sub-committee of children's and young people's partner organisations to be established in October 20/10/22.				
5.8 Collaborate with Welsh-medium providers in order to expand provision where pupils can have access to extra-curricular activities through the medium of Welsh. Combining Work 5.7, 5.8, 5.17	September 2023 - Establish a working group of various organisations to contribute to mapping the provision			

<p>5.10 Within 5 years, we wish to see more pupils studying Physical Education through the medium of Welsh and that the county's leisure services staff are confident to teach/train bilingually</p>	<p>Collect existing data and measure the impact of the Hyder - Sports Residential Course scheme</p>			<p>50% of the County's pupils studying Physical Education do so through the medium of Welsh</p>
<p>5.11 Develop the confidence of certain individuals to support Leisure bilingually.</p>				
<p>Continue with network meetings for the Siarter laith leaders to share ideas, frustrations, good practice and joint planning etc.</p>				
<p>Provide activities for specific days to promote the Welsh language such as Shwmae Su'mae Day, Welsh Language Music Day, St David's Day etc.</p>	<p>On-going</p>			
<p>Cardi-laith (@Cardiiaith): set up a Facebook page to share information, introduce language skills, language patterns, involvement and support for parents, promote Welsh language opportunities in the county within education and share the activities of other Welsh language organisations/bodies.</p>	<p>Annual impact report to the Communications team</p>			
<p>Music Project</p>	<p>Project underway. Develop a further relationship with the service following a new appointment</p>			
<p>Provide online training that will promote elements of the Welsh language digitally e.g. Podcasts, provide resources etc.</p>				
<p>Collaborate with Welsh language partners locally and nationally to see what is possible in terms of the use of computer games, social media influences and influencers etc through the medium of Welsh. Arrange with Stwnsh/PopT, S4C's youtube page to undertake a promotional and marketing campaign</p>				
<p>Hand in hand with key partners we will continue to amend our provision map annually as a record of what is available to school-age children so that they can use their Welsh skills in the community and socially. Combine Work 5.7, 5.8, 5.18</p>				

Outcome 6: An increase in the provision of Welsh-medium education for pupils with additional learning needs (ALN)

Year 1 2022 - 23	Year 2 2023 - 24	Year 3 2024 - 25	Year 4 2025 - 26	Year 5 2026 -27
6.1 Continue with the current situation in terms of securing Welsh-language provision in our schools and appropriate resources for support				
6.2 Continue to develop the situation in terms of training thus creating more specialist digital/virtual presentations in both languages so that school staff can choose the language they want to use on an individual basis				
6.7 Develop our systems in order to act on the requirements and implications of the Act and the ALN Code in our schools as well as our central provision				
6.5 Ensure that any new staff that are appointed can speak Welsh and provide input through the Welsh language. Where this is not possible due to the expertise of the professional skills, that the staff undertake to learn Welsh within two years of being appointed.				
6.8 Continue to collaborate and share good practice with other Local Authorities				
6.3 Establish Welsh language provision in all cases including input from the advisory teacher for hearing impairment by making reasonable adjustments e.g. securing a partnership with a Welsh Teaching Assistant as a translator and using a language and speech therapist where signing is necessary				
6.6 Raise the awareness and expectations of the early years workforce in terms of developing Welsh language skills and refer them to professional development that is available free of charge. Include this information in the annual conference.				
			6.10 Collaborate across the Hywel Dda region on the positive impact of the early years strategy and the integration system in the development of Welsh language skills	
			6.9 Collaborate with the Designated Education Clinical Lead Officer (DECLO) and other agencies in terms of the importance of the Welsh language skills of the workforce and provision.	

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

Year 1 2022-23	Year 2 2023-24	Year 3 2024-25	Year 4 2025-26	Year 5 2026-27
7.1 Ensure there is a career path and support for the teachers/deputy headteachers/senior teachers. Create an up-to-date database of who has received what leadership training and revise annually				
7.2 Use the Welsh Government's 'Welsh in Education Workforce' plan document and share it with Human Resources, using annual staff census data as a means of planning the Workforce.	Update as necessary.			
7.3 Collaborate with the Leadership Academy to attract headteachers to Ceredigion - Marketing campaign				
7.4 a 7.5 Support the linguistic skills of transitional schools Additional capacity January 2023				
7.7 – 7.15 Collaborate with Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol and Teacher Training Institutions, Schools and Year 10 - 13 pupils, Further Education Colleges and Mudiad Ysgolion Meithrin to attract more workers to the sector.				
7.16 Create a training plan on bilingual learning methodology.	Consider collaborating with suitable partners to create a package of resources/training for teachers who teach in linguistically mixed classes.			
7.17 Continue with high level training relating to the Welsh language. A series of county level training sessions and collaboration with the Welsh Language Leaders' working group regionally to support Welsh in English schools	Discuss with external providers as well as planning more specific provision.			

Cyngor Sir CEREDIGION County Council

REPORT TO: Cabinet

DATE: 2 May 2023

LOCATION: Hybrid

TITLE: Feedback from the Learning Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee on the Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2022-32 - Action Plan

PURPOSE OF REPORT: To provide feedback from the Learning Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 30 March 2023

BACKGROUND:

The Learning Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered the Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2022-32 - Action Plan at its meeting on 30th March 2023. In accordance with section 84 of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 every Local Authority in Wales was expected to submit a Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) to the Welsh Government. 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.

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 would 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 were set out. The Action Plan presented specifies a 5-year overview of the procedures, and there was 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 to the Committee.

The Committee heard that one of the steps set out in the Action Plan was 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 was required by the Council's Cabinet to start the consultation process and a paper would go before Cabinet on 2.5.23. The Committee received details of the timetable in terms of the statutory process of carrying out a consultation if consent was given by Cabinet at that meeting.

Following questions from the floor, it was AGREED to recommend to Cabinet:

- i. to adopt the Action Plan for the Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2022- 2032, to be implemented from the beginning of the Summer term 2023 and to review it annually;
- ii. that the Action Plan would 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 was presented to the Language Forum, the Bilingual Futures Committee, the Learning Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee and to the Cabinet; and
- 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 would coincide with this. These consultation periods would commence on 15th September 2023.

Councillor Endaf Edwards
Chairman of the Learning Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee