

# BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

## REPORT TO CABINET

10 MAY 2016

### REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR – EDUCATION AND FAMILY SUPPORT

#### WELSH IN EDUCATION STRATEGIC PLAN

#### 1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 This report is to inform Cabinet of the progress made on the Bridgend 'Welsh in Education Strategic Plan' (WESP) and to seek approval of the publication of the document in line with Welsh Government requirements.

#### 2. Connection to Corporate Improvement Plan / Other Corporate Priority

- 2.1 The WESP supports the corporate priority:
- Supporting a successful economy

It also supports the council's commitment to:

- Equalities, sustainable development and Welsh language

#### 3. Background

- 3.1 The School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act (2013) became law in Wales on 4 March 2013. The Act places a statutory requirement on local authorities to prepare and introduce and monitor progress of a Welsh in Education Strategic Plan. Under section 85(7) of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 local authorities must take all reasonable steps to implement their approved Welsh in Education Strategic Plans. The 2013 Regulations also require a local authority to review progress against the targets set out in its plan and to submit a revised plan for approval by the Welsh Ministers. This must be done by 20 December each year.

#### 4. Current situation / proposal

- 4.1 Cabinet first approved the Bridgend Local Authority WESP in March 2014 and it was subsequently approved by Welsh Government Department for Education and Skills (DfES) in June 2014 and a progress update was collected in December 2014. The Plan continues to be reviewed and updated annually prior to seeking approval from Welsh Government.
- 4.2 The Plan (**Appendix A**) was submitted to Welsh Government on 17<sup>th</sup> December 2015. It was approved subject to modifications on 24<sup>th</sup> March 2016 and was formally approved by Welsh Government on 13<sup>th</sup> April 2016 via email, followed with a letter in April 2016 (**Appendix B**)
- 4.3 The local authority's WESP must be published on its website by 1 June 2016 and copies made available in its offices and other suitable places.

## **5. Effect upon Policy Framework and Procedure Rules**

5.1 There is no effect upon the policy framework or procedure rules.

## **6. Equality Impact Assessment**

6.1 The WESP is designed to deliver the key principles of equality, choice and opportunity for all. An Initial Screening EIA has been undertaken on the Welsh in Education Strategic Plan which indicates that a Full EIA will be required over the next 12 months this will provide monitoring data on which to base further decisions regarding the detail of the WESP.

## **7. Financial Implications**

7.1 Other than the Welsh in Education Grant (WEG), additional costs associated with implementing the WESP will be met through existing budgets.

## **8. Recommendation**

8.1 Cabinet is recommended to approve the revised WESP and authorise publication of the revised WESP on the BCBC website from 1 June 2016.

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**Directorate Chief Officer's Job Title: Corporate Director – Education and Family Support**

**Date: 18<sup>th</sup> April 2016**

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### **Background documents**

- Cabinet Report: Welsh In Education Strategic Partnership, 4<sup>th</sup> March 2014
- Cabinet Report: Welsh In Education Strategic Partnership, 28<sup>th</sup> April 2015
- Equality Impact Assessment – Initial Screening

**Appendix A – Revised WESP approved by Welsh Government**

**Appendix B – Welsh Government Approval letter – 13.4.16**