
GwE JOINT COMMITTEE

21.02.2018

Present:

Councillors: Gareth Thomas – Cadeirydd (Gwynedd Council), Phil Wynn – Vice-chair (Wrexham County Borough Council), Garffild Lewis (Conwy County Council), Ian Roberts (Flintshire Council), and Huw Hilditch-Roberts (Denbighshire Council).

Co-opted Non-voting Members: Jonathan Morgan (Special School' Representative).

Non-voting Officers: Delyth Molyneux (Anglesey County Council), Dr Lowri Brown (Conwy County Council), Karen Evans (Denbighshire Council), Claire Homard (Flintshire Council), and Garem Jackson (Gwynedd Council).

Also present: Arwyn Thomas (Managing Director, GwE), Iwan G. Evans (Host Authority's Head of Legal Services – Gwynedd Council), Dafydd Edwards (Host Authority's Head of Finance – Gwynedd Council), Susan Owen Jones (GwE Business Manager), Dr Gwynne Jones (Anglesey County Council), Rhys Howard Hughes (Assistant Director, GwE), Dafydd Ifans, Llyr Gilmour Jones (Item 1 only) and Sioned Williams (Host Authority's Members Support Officer – Gwynedd Council).

1. APOLOGIES

Councillor Meirion Jones (Anglesey County Council), Rita Price (Wrexham Diocese), Mair Herbert (Secondary Schools' Representative), Alison Fisher (Governors' Representative), Ian Robert (Wrexham County Borough Council), Steve Vincent (Welsh Government), Gareth Williams (Chair of the Advisory Board), and Alwyn Jones (Assistant Director, GwE).

2. DECLARATION OF PERSONAL INTEREST

No declaration of personal interest was received by any Member present.

3. URGENT MATTERS

There were no urgent matters.

4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Chair signed the minutes of the committee meeting held on 22 November 2017. They were accepted as a true record.

5. G6 PRESENTATION

A presentation was given to the Joint committee of the G6 system, which is a system that enables schools to enter into a dialogue with their Schools Improvement Advisor on their progress by inputting information into a regional dashboard. Access will also be available to local authorities. The G6 system is intended to transform the relationship between GwE and

schools and to encourage co-operation between schools. It was noted that the system had already been piloted in schools in Denbighshire and the response has been very positive.

During the subsequent discussion, a series of questions/comments were responded to by members of the Joint Committee in relation to:

- A possibility to set a different entry level to the system for different users.
- Measure the validity of schools' judgement when inputting information.
- Challenge of dealing with schools that are in red/amber category but do not want to be published.
- The emphasis that the system is a tool to improve performance and not a tool to evaluate schools.
- Do the other 3 consortia have a similar system/is it possible to expand the system to be a national one?

6. LEVEL 1 BUSINESS PLAN MONITORING REPORT – QUARTER 3

GwE's Managing Director presented the quarter 3 monitoring report for the Level 1 Business Plan. The need to look at the impact of the actions was highlighted and the need to ensure that everyone is clear about the rationale behind the priorities.

During the subsequent discussion, a series of questions/comments were responded to by members of the Joint Committee in relation to:

- It was questioned is it appropriate to identify the leadership element as 'green'- implementation is 'green' but the outcomes are not.
- A meeting needs to be arranged before Cabinet members meet with the WLGA in March

IT WAS DECIDED TO: Accept the report.

7. BUDGET MONITORING REPORT 2017-18 - QUARTER 3

A report was presented by the Host Authority's Head of Finance. It was noted that there is no significant change in the Quarter 3 review.

IT WAS DECIDED TO: Accept the report.

8. BASE BUDGET 2018/19 REPORT

A report was presented by the Host Authority's Head of Finance and it was noted that the Joint Committee needed to adopt the budget for the coming year.

During the subsequent discussion, a series of questions/comments were responded to by members of the Joint Committee in relation to:

- Importance of risk management.
- Suggestion to prioritise any surplus fiscal resource to the schools that are in the 'Red' category.
- The importance of ensuring value for money in giving more money to schools that are in the 'Red' category – providing more money does not mean that the school will improve.

IT WAS DECIDED TO: Adopt the budget.

9. MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN 2017/18 – 2020/21

A report was presented by the Host Authority's Head of Finance. It was noted that there is no significant change in the figures and that the action plan does not require much change.

IT WAS DECIDED TO: Approve the report.

10. RISK REGISTER

GwE's Business Manager presented the risk register and noted the need for the Joint Committee to review and accept the contents of the register.

IT WAS DECIDED TO: Accept the risk register.

11. ADVISORY BOARD REPORT

The Advisory Board's report was presented noting the discussions that had taken place at their last meeting. The Joint Committee was asked to note the contents of the report.

Congratulations were extended to Aled Evans on his appointment in a lead role with the Welsh Government and it was also noted that Carl Hughes had been appointed as a new member of the Advisory Board.

IT WAS DECIDED TO: Note the contents of the report.

12. MEETING DATES

A request for meeting dates for the year was submitted to the Joint Committee.

IT WAS DECIDED TO: Accept the request.

13. OTHER MATTERS ARISING

Congratulations were extended to Jonathan Morgan on the success of Ysgol y Gogarth's recent Estyn inspection.

It was noted that Delyth Molyneux will be retiring and she was thanked for her dedication and contribution.