

Y Bwrdd Gweithredol

16eg Mawrth, 2020

Y PWNC- ERW i'r dyfodol

Y Pwrrpas: I ystyried barn ac ymateb Sir Gaerfyddin i'r arfarniad opsiynau ar gyfer trefniadau ERW i'r dyfodol.

Yr Argymhellion / Penderfyniadau Allweddol Sydd Eu Hangen:

- Gofynnir i'r Bwrdd Gweithredol gytuno ar ôl-troed Bargen Dinas Bae Abertawe, yn amodol ar ddarpariaethau'r Cytundeb Cyfreithiol.
- Gofynnir i'r Bwrdd Gweithredol gytuno bod Cyngor Sir Caerfyddin yn cyhoeddi hysbysiad i dynnu allan o ERW, os na chytunir yn unfrydol gan y partneriaid, yn amodol ar ddarpariaethau'r Cytundeb Cyfreithiol.
- Gofynnir i'r Bwrdd Gweithredol i gytuno ar gyfnod trosiannol priodol yn amodol ar ddarpariaethau'r Cytundeb Cyfreithiol. Mae blwyddyn (2020/21) yn cael ei argymhell.
- Y Bwrdd Gweithredol i awdurdodi'r Cyfarwyddwr Addysg a Gwasanaethau Plant a'r aelod o'r Bwrdd Gweithredol dros Addysg a Gwasanaethau Plant mewn cyswllt gyda'r Arweinydd a'r Prif Weithredwr i ddatblygu'r model a ffefrir a chanfod effaith unrhyw newidiadau (gan gynnwys elfennau cyfreithiol, adnoddau dynol ac ariannol), yn amodol ar ddarpariaethau'r Cytundeb Cyfreithiol.

Y Rhesymau:

Ar gais Cydbwyllgor ERW ar y 9fed o Ragfyr, 2019 rhoddwyd y dasg i Gyfarwyddwyr i gyflwyno olion troed ac arfarniad o'r opsiynau ar gyfer unrhyw drefniadau ERW tebygol i'r dyfodol. Gofynnir i'r Bwrdd Gweithredol ystyried sefyllfa ac ymateb Sir Gaerfyddin.

Ymgynghorwyd â'r pwylgor craffu perthnasol NADDO/

Angen i'r Bwrdd Gweithredol wneud penderfyniad OES

Angen i'r Cyngor wneud penderfyniad NAC OES

YR AELOD O'R BWRDD GWEITHREDOL SY'N GYFRIFOL AM Y PORTFFOLIO:-

Cyng. Glynog Davies

<p>Y Gyfarwyddiaeth: Addysg a Gwasanaethau Plant Enw Pennaeth y Gwasanaeth: Gareth Morgans Awdur yr Adroddiad: Gareth Morgans (Ar y cyd a Chyfarwyddwyr/Prif Swyddogion o bob Awdurdod Lleol a Rheolwr Gyfarwyddwr dros dro ERW)</p>	<p>Swyddi: Cyfarwyddwr Addysg a Gwasanaethau Plant</p>	<p>Rhif Ffôn 01267 246522 E: bost EDGMorgans@sirgar.gov.uk</p>
---	---	---

Executive Board Meeting

March 16th, 2020

SUBJECT- ERW for the future

The ERW Regional Education Service

On the 9th of December 2019, ERW's Joint Committee tasked officers with setting out a roadmap/options appraisal for any likely future ERW arrangements. The ERW Consortium is currently a Joint Education Service for six local authorities:

Carmarthenshire	Pembrokeshire
Ceredigion	Powys
Neath Port Talbot	Swansea

The Consortium acts on behalf of the six local authorities to deliver a service that supports schools to raise standards. There is much speculation at present regarding the future configuration and purpose of ERW. This is a matter of serious concern to our schools and education services.

Challenges

Since its inception ERW has struggled, due to numerous reasons, to function as an effective consortium. It has experienced a number of challenges-

- There have been several changes of political and managerial leadership and it has struggled to maintain a consistent strategic grip.
- The sheer size and diversity of the geographical area of the ERW footprint has presented operational and organisational difficulties
- School improvement has in many ways become compartmentalised and divorced from the broader learning, ALN and skills agenda. It has focussed on specific performance measures based almost exclusively on the traditional lines of attainment and attendance within schools and divorced from economic ambition.
- Different Local Authorities have different challenges and priorities and ERW has failed to address all of these successfully.
- There is sometimes conflict between accountability and provision of services.
- Some partners do not identify the added value that ERW provides and are not committed to making it work.

It is timely to review the footprint and consider the best outcome for Carmarthenshire's learners and schools.

DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED ?	YES
-----------------------------------	------------

IMPLICATIONS

Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities NONE	Legal YES	Finance YES	Risk Management Issues YES	Staffing Implications YES
Legal- If the current ERW footprint is changed there will be a requirement to amend the current six-authority Legal Agreement to take into account the withdrawal of the relevant Authorities. Changes to the Legal Agreement will require consultation with all Authorities. This will need to be agreed by respective partners and progressed through each partner's respective democratic processes.				
Finance- The core staffing structure agreed by the ERW Joint Committee for 2020/21 is currently not fully funded and relies on increased contributions from each partner. Should partners withdraw from the consortium/not increase their contributions it will be difficult to deliver the agreed structure and ERW's Business Plan. Grant funding currently is delivered to partner LAs and schools via the consortium and should the footprint change we will need to work with Welsh Government on alternative arrangements. To sustain the current model would require an additional £34,185 core funding from Carmarthenshire.				
Risk Management- The Department and ERW's Risk registers reflect Carmarthenshire's current identified risks in relation to School Improvement and associated remedial actions to reduce the risks.				
Staffing Implications- There are key posts within the agreed ERW structure which are vacant or removed due to Directors being charged with reducing core costs of the model. Removing staff to reduce has to be done in line with the employer's HR policies. Changes to the current structure could lead to significant redundancy costs.				

CONSULTATIONS

If there are any changes to the current ERW staffing structure/footprint we will need to consult and engage with ERW's core team in line with HR advice and guidance.

Section 100D Local Government Act, 1972 – Access to Information List of Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:		
Title of Document	File Ref No.	Locations that the papers are available for public inspection
The National Model for Regional Working		https://gov.wales/national-model-regional-working
ERW Joint Agreement		In each LA