

Committee: **Education and Learning Special Scrutiny Committee**  
Date of meeting: **26<sup>th</sup> January 2021**  
Report Subject: **Corporate Director's Report of Education Services  
Spring and Summer Terms 2021**  
Portfolio Holder: **Cllr Joanne Collins, Executive Member for Education**  
Report Submitted by: **Lynn Phillips, Corporate Director of Education**

Reporting Pathway								
Directorate Management Team	Corporate Leadership Team	Portfolio Holder / Chair	Audit Committee	Democratic Services Committee	Scrutiny Committee	Executive Committee	Council	Other (please state)
09.12.21	23.12.21	13.01.22			26.01.22	02.03.22		

## 1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to present the Corporate Director of Education's Spring and Summer Terms Report (2021), which is attached as Appendix 1.

## 2. Scope and Background

- 2.1 It is a statutory responsibility of the Corporate Director of Education to assess the effectiveness of the delivery of Education and produce updates for Members that forms part of the Annual Council Reporting Framework. The provision of Education is regulated under the Estyn Local Government Education Services (LGES) framework and this report will complement the Directorate's self-evaluation arrangements.
- 2.2 This is the first time that the Education Directorate has produced such a report, and moving forward, it is intended to bring annual reports to Members in the Autumn term in line with performance within the previous academic year.

## 3. Options for Recommendation

- 3.1 The report has been considered by Education's DMT and the Corporate Leadership Team (CLT).

### 3.2 Option 1

Members are asked to scrutinise the information detailed within the Corporate Director of Education's Spring/Summer terms 2021 report and contribute to the continuous assessment of effectiveness by making appropriate recommendations to the Executive Committee.

### 3.3 Option 2

Accept the report as provided.

## 4. Evidence of how does this topic supports the achievement of the Corporate Plan / Statutory Responsibilities / Blaenau Gwent Well-being Plan

4.1 It is a statutory responsibility of the Corporate Director of Education to assess the effectiveness of the delivery of Education and an annual report will be produced, in line with the Scrutiny and Executive's Forward Work Programme.

## 5. **Implications Against Each Option**

### 5.1 **Impact on Budget (short and long term impact)**

The attached report identifies the financial and budgetary implications from April 2021 to September 2021.

### 5.2 **Risk including Mitigating Actions**

The Education service maintains a Directorate Risk Register, which is aligned to both service level and corporate risks. The attached report highlights the main risks currently under consideration and the mitigation. The risk register is reviewed as part of the business planning process and included within the performance reporting of the Education service.

## 6. **Supporting Evidence**

6.1 The detailed performance information is included within Appendix 1. The Education Directorate is working together with key stakeholders on a joint purpose to deliver 'Better Schools, Better Citizens and Better Communities – all through a children and young person centred approach'.

6.2 The Education Directorate's priorities outlined in the Education Improvement Plan (EIP) are as follows:

- Improve outcomes and wellbeing for pupils, particularly at KS4, through effective governance arrangements;
- Delivery of the vision for education to support all learners in a modern and safe environment;
- Transforming education in line with curriculum, qualifications and ALN reform that is fit for the 21st Century;
- Deliver community based learning and recreation provision to meet need; and,
- Creating a performance culture for Education and Leisure that delivers improved value for money.

6.3 The proposed structure of the Corporate Director's report covers the following areas;

- An Introduction - Context of Education in Blaenau Gwent
- Corporate Director's Overview
- COVID 19 and Recovery from the Pandemic
- Local Political Leadership, Governance and Accountability
- Estyn - Regulatory Activity
- Departmental Priorities
- Progress Against the Priorities - Updates
- Improving Schools Programme 2021

- Key Performance Indicators
  - Budget 2021/22 - Quarters 1 & 2
  - Directorate Risk Register
- 6.4 It is intended to review the structure of the first annual report following both Officer and Member discussion to ensure that the report is fit for purpose in the 2021-22 full academic year and the next iteration of the report.
- 6.5 **Expected outcome for the public**  
Reporting performance provides the public with the opportunity to view progress of the Education Directorate and ensure accountability.
- 6.6 **Involvement (consultation, engagement, participation)**  
The Blaenau Gwent 'We Want' Plan looks to build and strengthen on existing arrangements by involving service users, carers and other key partners where possible in helping shape and influence future design of services.
- 6.7 **Thinking for the Long term (forward planning)**  
The report enables the Education Directorate to plan for the future as spend, risk and performance is continuously reported on and provides a baseline of where the department is currently and where it needs to be in the future.
- 6.8 **Preventative focus**  
The work undertaken by the Education Directorate promotes a preventative approach to practice through early identification and intervention. The respective teams have an active rather than re-active approach to service planning can also help with planning resources and ensuring value for money services are delivered.
7. **Monitoring Arrangements**
- 7.1 The performance of the Education Directorate is monitored via the business planning process and reported through the democratic process via various reporting mechanisms including the Finance and Performance Report, the Assessment of Performance and various performance monitoring reports.

### **Background Documents /Electronic Links**

- Appendix 1 –Report of the Corporate Director of Education Services 2021