

## **WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL**

### **Report by the Executive Director of Educational Services**

**Educational Services Committee: 4 June 2014**

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**Subject: Language Learning 1+2 Approach in West Dunbartonshire**

#### **1 Purpose**

- 1.1** This report informs Members about West Dunbartonshire's approach to implementing Language Learning 1+2. (Appendix 1)

#### **2 Recommendations**

- 2.1** The Educational Services Committee is recommended to:
- a) agree the content of the Educational Services Implementation Strategy for Language Learning 1+2;
  - b) agree the cluster learning community Language Two choices as follows:
    - Clydebank High School: Spanish
    - Dumbarton Academy: Spanish
    - Our Lady and St. Patrick's High School: French
    - St. Peter the Apostle High School: Spanish
    - Vale of Leven Academy: French
  - c) note the content of the action plan. (Appendix 2)

#### **3 Background**

- 3.1** Members were informed of the progress of Language Learning 1+2 Approach within the Curriculum for Excellence (CfE) report at the meeting of Educational Services Committee on 5 March 2014.
- 3.2** Language Learning in Scotland, a 1+2 Approach is a national policy whereby primary school pupils will start learning a first foreign language in Primary 1 and a second foreign language from Primary 5. All pupils will have the opportunity to continue with these two additional languages in the Broad General Education (BGE) until the end of S3.

#### **4.1 Main Issues**

- 4.1** Educational Services appointed a CfE Development Officer who works 0.6 FTE to take forward the recommendations in the Languages 1+2 Report.

- 4.2 An Authority wide audit has been undertaken to ascertain the languages currently being offered in our primary schools and associated secondary schools. It highlighted an inconsistency in provision for primary modern languages in terms of teaching approaches, resources and delivery of learning.
- 4.3 The audit highlighted that we now need to provide professional learning opportunities in modern languages across West Dunbartonshire to ensure sustainability.
- 4.4 A meeting for all Head Teachers has taken place at which a presentation was given by Education Scotland. Head Teachers were grouped in Learning Communities and decisions were taken as to the language provision to be developed to meet local circumstances. (Appendix 3)

## **5. People Implications**

- 5.1 Training needs have been identified and cover will be provided to enable co-ordinators to participate.
- 5.2 The implementation strategy will be monitored and future staffing requirements will be taken into account in the workforce plan.
- 5.3 We are currently working to secure three Foreign Language Assistants to support schools.

## **6. Financial Implications**

- 6.1 The allocation of funding of £73,222 per annum has been guaranteed for a minimum of two years.

## **7. Risk Analysis**

- 7.1 Failure to implement Language Learning 1+2 would become a reputational risk to the Council. Children and young people would not receive their entitlement within CfE to a broad general education.

## **8. Equalities Impact Assessment (EIA)**

- 8.1 An EIA has been carried out and has identified that the implementation of the Language Learning 1+2 will broaden access to modern language education for primary pupils.

## **9. Consultation**

- 9.1 Legal Services, the Section 95 Officer and Head Teachers have been consulted in relation to this report.

## **10. Strategic Assessment**

- 10.1** This report reflects the Council's aspiration to improve life chances for children and young people which is one of the strategic priorities for 2012 - 2017.

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**Appendix 1:** Implementing the Languages 1+2 policy

**Appendix 2:** Improvement Plan

**Appendix 3:** Language Provision within Learning Communities

## **Background Papers**

**Wards Affected:** All.