

## Culture, Communications, Welsh Language, Sport and International Relations Committee

Date: 19 January 2022 (10:40 – 11:40am)

Title: Evidence paper on Draft Budget 2022-23 – Education and Welsh Language Main Expenditure Group (MEG) – Welsh Language

This paper provides information to the Culture, Communications, Welsh Language, Sport and International Relations Committee on budget allocations relevant to the Welsh Language in the Education and Welsh Language Main Expenditure Group (MEG) proposals outlined in the draft Budget 2022-23<sup>1</sup>, published on 20 December 2021. It also provides an update on specific areas of interest to the Committee.

Draft Budget 2022-23 is the first Budget published for the sixth Senedd and provides a three year plan for revenue and capital investment prepared following the outcome of the UK Government’s multi-year Spending Review published on 27 October 2021.

### 1. Commentary on Actions and detail of Budget Expenditure Line (BEL) allocations

1.1 In draft Budget 2022-23, the total Welsh Language budget within the Education and Welsh Language MEG increases by £5.8m in 2022-23 to **£43.6m** (£43.551m resource and £0.05m capital), with further increases in resource of £3m in 2023-24 and £3.5m in 2024-25. By 2024-25 the total indicative Welsh Language budget stands at **£51.1m** (£50.051m resource and £0.05m capital). The changes, broken down by resource and capital, are summarised in tables 1 and 2 below.

TABLE 1: Resource Budget – Total Welsh Language								
Action	BEL	£000s						
		2021-22 Revised Baseline	2022-23 Changes	2022-23 Draft Budget	2023-24 Changes	2023-24 Indicative Draft Budget	2024-25 Changes	2024-25 Indicative Draft Budget
Welsh in Education	Welsh in Education	13,475	4,300	17,775	3,000	20,775	3,500	24,275
<b>Total Welsh in Education</b>		<b>13,475</b>	<b>4,300</b>	<b>17,775</b>	<b>3,000</b>	<b>20,775</b>	<b>3,500</b>	<b>24,275</b>
Welsh Language	Welsh Language	21,065	1,384	22,449	0	22,449		22,449
	WLC <sup>2</sup>	3,207	120	3,327	0	3,327	0	3,327
<b>Total Welsh Language</b>		<b>24,272</b>	<b>1,504</b>	<b>25,776</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>25,776</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>25,776</b>
<b>Total Welsh Language Resource Budgets</b>		<b>37,747</b>	<b>5,804</b>	<b>43,551</b>	<b>3,000</b>	<b>46,551</b>	<b>3,500</b>	<b>50,051</b>

<sup>1</sup> Within this paper, ‘/’ refers to an academic year which spans the period from 1 August to 31 July and ‘-’ refers to a financial year which spans the period from 1 April to 31 March.

<sup>2</sup> The Welsh Language Commissioner (WLC) BEL includes revenue of £3.207m and non-cash of £0.120m (made up of £0.116m transfer from Welsh Language BEL and extra £0.004m allocated from 2022-23).

TABLE 2: Capital Budget <sup>3</sup> – Total Welsh Language					
Action	BEL	£000s			
		2021-22 Revised Baseline	2022-23 Draft Budget	2023-24 Indicative Draft Budget	2024-25 Indicative Draft Budget
Welsh Language	Welsh Language Commissioner	30	50	50	50
<b>Total Welsh Language</b>		<b>30</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>50</b>
<b>Total Welsh Language Capital Budgets</b>		<b>30</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>50</b>

- 1.2 As requested by the Committee, a detailed breakdown of 2023-23 draft budget allocations, final outturn for 2020-21, together with forecast outturn for 2021-22, is attached at Annex A. This confirms the final outturn for Welsh Language budgets in 2020-21 was £37.5m (£37.1m resource and £0.4m capital) and the forecast outturn (as at period 7) for 2021-22 is £40.2m (£39.9m resource and £0.3m capital).
- 1.3 It is important to note that the aim is to mainstream *Cymraeg 2050* into all Welsh Government portfolio areas and there is already expenditure on the language embedded in delivery within many other ministerial portfolios. However further detail is provided below on the specific Budget Expenditure Lines (BELs) within the Education and Welsh Language MEG that directly support delivery of the Welsh Language portfolio.

### Welsh Language BEL

- 1.4 The purpose of the Welsh language BEL is to support *Cymraeg 2050* in relation to increasing the use of Welsh and securing the right infrastructure. Funding within the Welsh Language BEL has increased by almost £1.4m to **£22.449m** per annum from 2022-23.
- 1.5 Additional funding of **£1.2m** from 2022-23 has been allocated for the Urdd to provide continued support for the rebuilding of their services as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic. It will ensure a network of development officers are employed to support children and young people in communities across Wales. The funding will also provide a specialist programme that provides Welsh-medium apprenticeships for young people within our most deprived communities.
- 1.6 A further **£0.3m** per annum will support the National Eisteddfod to recover following the financial challenges of having to cancel the Eisteddfod in 2020 as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic. Funding will allow the Eisteddfod to have the necessary resources to help plan future eisteddfodau. With the success of the AmGen Eisteddfod in reaching new audiences not only in Wales but also internationally, there is an opportunity for future eisteddfodau to include a more

<sup>3</sup> In Draft Budget 2022-23, a further £45m is also being invested over three years within the Education Infrastructure BEL to support the Welsh Medium Capital Grant.

blended approach, which includes further investment in digital interaction in parallel with the traditional element of the Eisteddfod. This provides a unique opportunity to showcase and further promote our culture, heritage and Welsh language to a wider audience.

1.7 Finally, there has also been a technical change to transfer out of £0.116m to correctly allocate the Welsh Language Commissioner's non-cash depreciation budget (allocated in draft Budget 2021-22) to the Welsh Language Commissioner BEL.

1.8 The remaining budget has been maintained from 2022-23 to support partnership activities including:

- Cymraeg i Blant (Cymraeg for Kids) – to support parents, prospective parents and other family members in using Welsh at home, transmit Welsh to their children, and to support children's linguistic development in a social and educational context. Further detail is provided at paragraphs 2.15-2.16;
- Delivery of Welsh-language training through the National Centre for Learning Welsh. Further detail is provided at paragraphs 3.1.1-3.1.7;
- Delivering the Welsh Language Technology Action Plan;
- Increasing the use of Welsh, for example through providing grants to the network of Mentrau Iaith, Merched y Wawr, yr Urdd, Eisteddfod Genedlaethol and the Young Farmers Clubs;
- Funding for the Welsh Language Tribunal; and
- Research, evaluation and marketing in respect of the strategy.

### **Welsh Language Commissioner BEL**

1.9 This budget (resource of £3.327m and capital £0.50m) supports the Welsh Language Commissioner, with further detail on the Commissioner's budget provided in section 3.2. The Commissioner has wide ranging functions and powers which include:

- Working towards ensuring that the Welsh language is treated no less favourably than the English language;
- Implementing the Welsh language standards system;
- Conducting inquiries into matters relating to the Commissioner's functions;
- Investigating alleged interference with an individual's freedom to communicate in Welsh; and
- Promoting and facilitating the use of the Welsh language with a view to increasing language use – especially within the third and private sectors.

### **Welsh in Education BEL**

1.10 The Welsh in Education budget has increased by £4.3m in 2022-23 to **£17.775m**, with further increases of £3m in 2023-24 and £3.5m in 2024-25, to **£20.775m** and **£24.275m** respectively.

1.11 As part of our Co-operation Agreement with Plaid Cymru, we will be investing an additional £8m by 2024-25 (£1.5m in 2022-23, with further increases of £3m in

2023-24 and £3.5m in 2024-25), to ensure that the Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol can increase the proportion of apprenticeships and further education that are Welsh-medium, and for the National Centre for Learning Welsh to provide free Welsh language learning for 16-25 year olds. This builds on the existing budget for the Coleg which supports Welsh-medium provision across universities, together with FE colleges and training providers by providing training and mentoring through Sgiliaith, to enable tutors and assessors to gain confidence in teaching bilingually and support for the apprenticeship sector to build teaching capacity. The Coleg already has a close working relationship with the National Centre and further collaboration will strengthen the support to the Welsh language post-16 sector.

1.12 In addition to the funding outlined in the Co-operation Agreement, further investment has also been identified through the repurposing of funding within the Education and Welsh Language MEG to provide an extra £2.2m from 2022-23 to support our Programme for Government commitment to expand Welsh immersion provision. This ensures we are able to maintain funding following the additional funding of £2.2m allocated in 2021-22 for the programme. Further detail is set out in paragraph 2.36 and section 3.1. We will also provide an additional £0.35m to support the e-sgol programme which will provide total funding of £0.6m per annum from 2022-23, to further develop the project and provide opportunities for schools and pupils to access this flexible and valuable teaching model.

1.13 The Welsh in Education BEL also supports actions related to Welsh-medium and Welsh language education within *Cymraeg 2050*, including:

- Funding for Mudiad Meithrin to increase Welsh-medium childcare provision as a pathway into Welsh-medium education;
- The planning of Welsh-medium education to include preparatory work for the implementation of the new 10 year Welsh in Education Strategic Plans (WESPs) in line with the Welsh in Education Strategic Plans (Wales) (Amendment) (Coronavirus) Regulations 2020, which came into force on 1 December 2020. Further detail is provided at paragraph 2.33-2.35;
- Commissioning of teaching and learning resources. Further detail is provided at paragraph 3.1.15;
- Funding for the Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol and the development of post-16 Welsh-medium provision is an ongoing process and is part of the targets included in the *Cymraeg 2050* Work Programme for 2021-26 to increase linguistic progression between statutory and further education and to develop apprenticeships.

## 2. Other Information

***Information on how the delivery of the Welsh Language portfolio and associated outcomes are monitored and evaluated to demonstrate value for money.***

2.1 In terms of ensuring value for money, clarity over how we use our resources effectively is central to delivering the priorities set out in the Programme for

Government and the Co-operation Agreement. We have well-established processes in place to ensure that resources are used effectively for the purposes intended.

- 2.2 Progress against the [Cymraeg 2050 Work Programme for 2021 to 2026](#) is monitored annually through a process which includes the publication of an annual [Action Plan](#) at the beginning of the financial year, followed by an Annual Report at the year end to report back on the actions detailed in the Action Plan. Regular reviews to monitor expenditure and outcomes are undertaken to ensure that any available resources are reprioritised to deliver the strategy.
- 2.3 The Welsh Language Partnership Council plays a role in advising on progress towards the 2050 target and the efficacy of our programmes and interventions. Sub-groups work alongside the Partnership Council and undertake more detailed work and scrutiny for example in the field of community language use, equality and the economy. The Cymraeg 2050 Programme Board within the Welsh Government is tasked with assessing risks and identifying steps to mitigate them and mainstreams the strategy in each of the Government's policy areas.
- 2.4 In terms of research and evaluation, we have an annual Evidence Plan in place that identifies gaps in the evidence on the Welsh language and sets out a programme of analytical work to address these needs. In July 2020, we published an evaluation of the Siarter Iaith and associated programmes, with the findings and recommendations aimed at informing the future development of the programme. In March 2021, we published the findings of an evaluation of the [Welsh Language Sabbatical Scheme](#) for education practitioners. Our analytical work during 2021 has included two research studies on Welsh-medium immersion provision. These focused on published evidence around late immersion provision internationally as well as in Wales, drawing on key themes and similarities (report published in June 2021) as well as mapping late immersion provision across Wales (report published October 2021). Both studies have supported discussions around expanding late immersion provisions around Wales in line with WESP planning, which also led to the commitment of £2.2m revenue funding to support Welsh immersion provision.
- 2.5 On 10 December 2020, we published a research report *[The effects of COVID-19 on Welsh language community groups – survey findings](#)*. Based on the findings, a Sub Group of the Welsh Language Partnership Council, chaired by Dr Simon Brooks, submitted a [number of recommendations](#).
- 2.6 I published our [response to those recommendations](#) in July 2021. We will encourage our grant funded partners to work closely with Welsh language community groups that have been effected by COVID-19 by helping them to restart. We will also look at ways of empowering local communities and support the development of community-led co-operatives and social enterprises.
- 2.7 Linked to this, we are currently undertaking a Review of the Grant Scheme to Promote and Facilitate the Use of the Welsh Language. The aim of the review is to assess how the current Scheme has been designed and implemented, and to

offer guidance as we plan a funding model to support the future use of the Welsh language.

- 2.8 We have used the findings of a research study we published in 2017: Welsh Language Transmission and Use in Families to inform our new policy on Welsh language transmission and use in families, which we published in January 2021. Our Policy provides a basis for a ten-year programme of work. The policy aims to enable those families where there is already an ability to use Welsh to use whatever Welsh they have with their children. One of the first steps in implementing the policy will be to examine work with families in non Welsh language-related fields which uses the behavioural sciences so that we look at what lessons we can learn from this and develop interventions for our language based on these.
- 2.9 As well as these evaluations, in February 2020, we published The Welsh language and the economy: a review of evidence and methods. The review provides an assessment of the evidence available on the relationship between language and the economy, and of the methods and approaches that have been used in these studies. As a result of the report, my predecessor established an economy and Welsh language sub-group within the Welsh Language Partnership Council. The sub-group considered the findings of the report as well as other evidence of the relationship between the Economy and Welsh Language. The aim of the sub-group is to advise Ministers on how the relationship between economic development and the Welsh language can be strengthened and what economic interventions could be implemented to strengthen the Welsh economy, which will in turn also support the Welsh language.
- 2.10 We have undertaken work to gain insight about what our target audiences think about our language. We are increasing the amount of behaviourally-scientific work we do to increase the use of Welsh and understanding language behaviours and attitudes towards Welsh is one part of this. What we find out will shape our marketing work, the way we target our audience, and ensure that we are engaging with the right audience with the right way of speaking. Together with many of our partners, we are working towards creating a 'one voice' approach to promote the Welsh language, thereby reducing duplication of work. The aim is that this work will also feed into other work, and contribute to creating more favourable attitude toward the use of Welsh.
- 2.11 Furthermore, our target of increasing Welsh language early years provision by 150 nursery groups by 2028 has the potential to reduce spend on promotion among older age groups, as they help individuals establish robust language practices at an early age. In this respect, Cylchoedd Meithrin contribute to nurturing the conditions which create new Welsh speakers by immersing children in the language and its culture, and by helping to feed Welsh-medium schools. This spend on the early years prepares the ground for further interventions in the shape of, for instance, the Siarter Iaith (which has the aim of encouraging informal Welsh-language use among school children from an early age).

- 2.12 The digital landscape is also a game-changer for the Welsh language, several elements of which could be considered as preventative or ‘once-for-Wales’ spend. Our [Welsh Language Technology Action Plan](#) involves ensuring Welsh language digital components are created and maintained so that they can be used and reused under a suitably permissive licence by all. The spread of Welsh language technology is also essential for the normalisation of the Welsh language and enabling people to use it in their day to day lives. We launched the Plan on 23 October 2018. In December 2020, my predecessor published a report [on progress to date on the Plan](#). This noted that we had completed, or were implementing 19 of the 27 work packages the plan set out.
- 2.13 We are committed to using the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act to improve how we make decisions about the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales. Our goal is to ensure we reflect the sustainable development principle and our spending plans aim to achieve a balance between short and long-term priorities.

***Information on allocations (and their location) in your portfolio to support Cymraeg 2050 Welsh language strategy, in particular, allocations to achieve the ‘milestones’ as set out in the Work Programme 2021-2026***

- 2.14 Since launching *Cymraeg 2050* in 2017, we have been working towards a series of milestones to achieve our targets of a million Welsh speakers and doubling daily use of Welsh by 2050. We follow a trajectory that was developed based on the 2011 Census. The world has changed dramatically during the past two years and we have committed to review all targets once the 2021 Census data has been released. In the meantime, we are following our detailed Work Plan for 2021-26 which takes into account how Brexit and Covid-19 have changed society and includes 58 areas of action. Set out below is our progress against the high level milestones.

**Milestone: a small increase in language transmission rates in families by the 2021 Census, continuing the trend seen between 2001 and 2011**

- 2.15 To support this aim, we will continue to invest in the Cymraeg for Kids programme from 2022-23 with funding of £0.73m being maintained. The objectives of the programme are to support parents, prospective parents and other family members in introducing and using Welsh at home and transmitting Welsh to their children, and to support children’s linguistic development in a social and educational context. This is achieved through series of free sessions for parents and their children, a network of officers support families to introduce and use Welsh at home, transmit Welsh to their children, and support children’s linguistic, social and educational development. In 2019-20 before the pandemic nearly 4,000 support sessions were delivered to over 30,000 parents and children. When the Covid-19 restrictions were introduced, the face to face sessions had to stop but the programme responded by moving to online support. In 2020-21, despite the pandemic, nearly 4,000 live support sessions were delivered to over 7,000 parents and 4,000 children in addition to over 3,700 recorded support sessions. Face-to-face sessions are beginning to be re-introduced with the

easing of restrictions, but the virtual elements developed continue to be an important element of support.

2.16 Cymraeg for Kids supports our new national policy on Welsh language transmission and use in families. Encouraging families to choose Welsh is an important part of *Cymraeg 2050* and this policy outlines how we plan to make sure parents and carers are given the best possible support and encouragement to choose to use Welsh with their children. The Welsh language transmission and use in families Programme works in collaboration with Cymraeg i Blant officials to design interventions based on lessons learnt.

### **Milestone: Increasing language use**

2.17 All of the interventions in my portfolio, and therefore all corresponding budget allocations, ultimately have the aim of increasing the use of the language, and are evaluated and monitored to ensure that they are fit for this purpose. This is true of both the Welsh Language and Welsh Language Commissioner BELs. Under the Memorandum of Understanding between the Welsh Government and Welsh Language Commissioner, as well as regulating the standards, the Commissioner has the role of increasing use of the language.

2.18 Projects and partners funded under the Welsh Language BEL to increase the use of the language include:

- Eisteddfod Genedlaethol (The National Eisteddfod);
- The Urdd;
- The network of mentrau iaith;
- Young Farmers Clubs;
- Cymdeithas Eisteddfodau Cymru;
- Merched y Wawr;
- Papurau Bro (community newspapers);
- Bangor University's ARFer project, to increase interpersonal, communication and confidence in the use of Welsh in the workplace via behavioural pledges;
- A fund to promote the use of the Welsh language in the post-16 sector.
- The Welsh Language Charter (Siarter Iaith);
- Cymraeg for Kids;
- Dydd Miwsig Cymru; and
- Our Leading in a bilingual country programme (developed jointly with Academi Wales).

2.19 While Covid-19 has dramatically changed the world around us, it is encouraging to see how people have positively responded to the challenge. The new 'Eisteddfod T' and Eisteddfod AmGen were examples of creative responses to the pandemic. The Young Farmers and Merched y Wawr undertook exceptional effort in developing a bespoke voluntary service to support local communities. Many events and activities were held online by the network of mentrau iaith. We've seen more learners than the past three years combined, signing up for the National Centre for Learning Welsh's online taster courses since March 2020.



This all shows the important work our partners have been doing, driving Welsh language policy and delivering *Cymraeg 2050*'s aims during this difficult time.

- 2.20 As the pandemic remains with us, we continue to adapt to it. In this financial year we have allocated an additional £0.2m from the Covid-19 Reserve for the Eisteddfod Genedlaethol, which is being used to support the Eisteddfod to rebuild and support the planning of the Eisteddfod in Tregaron and Pen Llŷn during 2022 and 2023. As outlined in paragraph 1.6, we are providing the National Eisteddfod with a further £0.3m per annum from 2022-23 to support them to recover following the financial challenges as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic.
- 2.21 In 2020-21, £1.3m was provided to the Urdd to help the start the rebuilding of their services and provision. The Urdd faced severe financial challenges in response to Covid-19, with the loss of income from their activities and the residential centres. The additional funding helped the Urdd to establish a network of community and cultural development officers, as well as create a Welsh-medium apprenticeship infrastructure to create new job opportunities for young people. This funding, combined with £0.527m provided in 2021-22 to facilitate free entry to the 2022 Urdd Eisteddfod, a Programme for Government commitment, puts the Urdd on a much stronger footing for the future. As outlined in paragraph 1.5, we are going further by providing the Urdd with an extra £1.2m from 2022-23 to enable their continued recovery and secure the community and culture services and provision they provide to children and young people which is vital to our *Cymraeg 2050* ambitions.
- 2.22 Activities funded from the Welsh in Education BEL include the development of Welsh-medium and bilingual early years provision, the development and implementation of the Welsh in Education Strategic Plans (WESPs), support for FE colleges and training to enable tutors and assessors to teach and train learners bilingually, support the development of Welsh-medium HE provision and lead on post-16 development. Other activities include the development of teaching and learning resources to support the teaching of Welsh and other subjects through the medium of Welsh, as well as bilingual resources to support the new curriculum. All of these activities have an impact on language use.
- 2.23 The Siarter Iaith supports and promotes the informal use of Welsh amongst school-age young people with the aim of creating bilingual citizens of the future, who will:
- be instinctive, natural, comfortable, confident Welsh speakers.
  - want to use the Welsh language of their own volition.
  - speak Welsh with each other whether they come from Welsh speaking homes or not.
  - be confident to use their Welsh and have a positive attitude towards it.
  - be assertive about their Welshness and language use.
- 2.24 There are four projects within the Siarter Iaith:
- Siarter Iaith a Siarter Iaith Uwchradd operates Welsh-medium primary and secondary schools respectively.
  - *Cymraeg Campus* operates in English medium primary schools.

- *Cymraeg Bob Dydd* operates in English medium secondary schools.

2.25 We will allocate £713,000 to the programme for 2022-23. We provide £138,200 to the Urdd to deliver *Cymraeg Bob Dydd* and £518,770 is allocated to the regional consortia (or in the case of mid and West Wales to the relevant local authorities) to work with schools to deliver the programme. The remainder funds national activities such as the publication of the *Seren* and *Sbarc* books and other resources. This project is a key part of our work to increase language use and will be maintained in 2022-23.

2.26 It's very difficult to measure language use. One way is by conducting language use surveys. Work began on a new Welsh language use survey in July 2019, and was due to continue until the end of March 2021. However, due to Covid-19, the survey ended earlier than planned, during March 2020. The Welsh language use surveys are the official source for reporting progress against one of the national indicators set out in the Well-being of Future Generations Act (Wales). According to the Welsh Language Use Survey 2019-20, 10% of people aged three or older spoke Welsh daily and could speak more than just a few words (it should be noted that Welsh speakers who can only speak a few words are not included here, no matter how often they speak the language). This is the same percentage as in the Welsh Language Use Survey 2013-15. However when looking specifically at Welsh speakers aged three or older in Wales, over half (56%) spoke the language daily (regardless of their levels of fluency) compared with 53% in the Welsh Language Use Survey 2013-15. There was also a small increase in those who considered themselves fluent in Welsh (up to 48% from 47%) and two thirds of Welsh speakers agree (strongly or tend to agree) that speaking Welsh is an important part of who they are.

2.27 *Cymraeg 2050* is a cross-cutting policy, supported not just through the Welsh Language and Welsh in Education BELs. For example, the Sabbatical Scheme and CYDAG are supported by the Teacher Development and Support BEL of the Education and Welsh Language MEG. An additional £1m was also allocated to the Curriculum and Assessment BEL in last year's Budget for bilingual resources to support effective implementation of the new Curriculum for Wales.

**Milestone: Aim to support the expansion of Welsh language early years by 60 new groups by 2026**

2.28 Annual funding of £3.031m to Mudiad Meithrin has enabled it to support its membership of Cylchoedd Meithrin and Cylchoedd Ti a Fi to strengthen and expand its services. The COVID-19 pandemic has intensified the need for this support, particularly for Cylchoedd Ti a Fi who were unable to meet due to Covid-19 restrictions.

2.29 From 2022-23 we will continue the support for Mudiad Meirthin to expand and strengthen this provision. Despite the pandemic, funding has also enabled Mudiad Meithrin to continue with a programme focusing solely on establishing new Welsh-medium early years provision in areas of Wales where there is a current lack of such services as an access point to Welsh-medium education.

- 2.30 Through this work, 43 new groups were established over the first 3 years of the programme up to 2021 with a target of establishing a further 60 groups set for the subsequent 5 years. The work to develop staff and volunteers at its member settings has also continued, and has this year included sessions tailored to respond to the challenges the early years sector has faced during this year. This budget will be maintained in 2022-23 and Mudiad Meithrin will continue to build early years capacity to provide a path into Welsh-medium education.
- 2.31 Mudiad Meithrin continues to promote Welsh-medium education and childcare. One notable example of this is through the [Baby Steps into Welsh](#) 'podcast series. Presented by Nia Parry, the podcast provides an opportunity for parents to openly discuss and share their real-life experiences around Welsh-medium education.

**Milestone: Increase the percentage of year 1 learners taught in Welsh from 23% (2020 to 2021) to 26% in 2026.**

- 2.32 The percentage of Year 2 children (usually 7 year olds) assessed through Welsh as a first language increased by just under 1 percentage point (from 22.0% in 2015 to 2016 to 22.8% in 2020 to 2021). Although the target set in the first Cymraeg 2050 Work Programme of 24% year 2 children in Welsh-medium education by 2021 has not been met, there are encouraging signs in younger cohorts, where 23.8% of Reception class children (usually 5 year olds) were taught in Welsh in 2020 to 2021. Work in this policy areas includes a number of different streams.

#### Welsh in Education Strategic Plans (WESPs)

- 2.33 We have allocated funding of £0.1m from the Welsh in Education BEL to support work on the Welsh in Education Strategic Plans (WESPs). Under this work stream, new *Welsh in Education Strategic Plans (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2020* came into force on 1 December 2020 setting out new arrangements for the preparation and implementation of Welsh in Education Strategic Plans. New provisions include the introduction of longer term Plans (10 years) as well as Plans that are prepared on the basis of clear, ambitious targets. These targets have been calculated in such a way as to demonstrate the contribution individual local authorities need to make in order to support the Welsh Government's *Cymraeg 2050* education milestone targets.
- 2.34 Our efforts in 2022-23 will concentrate on supporting local authorities in their preparation of new 10 year Welsh in Education Strategic Plans (WESPs). This will include:
- Advice and guidance around communication and promotion of Welsh-medium education (including a package of digital resources for LAs to use).
  - Procurement of Welsh language and education consultants to advise LAs on aspects of WESP implementation, such as progression from Welsh-medium primary to secondary provision and work around school categorisation and immersion.
  - Support to implement the new WESPs.

2.35 We'll also develop proposals during this Senedd term for legislating to support the strategy for the acquisition and lifelong learning of Welsh through the Welsh-medium Education Bill.

#### Late immersion

2.36 Late immersion plays an important part in our work to increase the percentage of learners who attend Welsh-medium education. Further detail is included in paragraphs 3.1.8-3.1.11.

#### Categorising schools according to Welsh-medium provision

2.37 Furthermore, we held a consultation on guidance around categorising schools according to Welsh-medium provision which ended on 26 March 2021. This is to enable schools and local authorities, as part of our *Cymraeg 2050* commitments and delivering the Curriculum for Wales, to identify themselves in the right category of school and develop a clearer plan for moving along the language continuum by increasing the amount of Welsh offered. For many local authorities, this policy will support their WESP targets by improving the planning of Welsh-medium education in their areas and enable more learners to follow a Welsh-medium education and / or learn Welsh successfully. We aim to publish the revised guidance around school categories in December 2021.

#### Welsh-medium Education Bill

2.38 We'll also develop proposals during this Senedd term for legislating to support the strategy for the acquisition and lifelong learning of Welsh through the Welsh-medium Education Bill.

#### **Milestone: support growth in the number of teachers in Wales who can teach Welsh or teach through the medium of Welsh by 2031 as follows.**

2.39 The Education and Welsh Language MEG will continue to provide support for activities that aim to increase the number of teachers able to teach Welsh or through the medium of Welsh. The Teacher Development and Support BEL includes the following funding from 2022-23:

- Approximately £0.8m for the Iaith Athrawon Yfory Welsh-medium incentive scheme targeted at Welsh speaking student teachers to encourage them to undertake an eligible postgraduate secondary ITE programme enabling them to teach through the medium of Welsh. The line is demand-led and is highly dependent on recruitment levels into ITE programmes (QTS). In addition, the incentive scheme is paid at two points in a teacher's early career (on award of QTS and completion of Induction) and applicants have a number of years in which to claim each instalment. Therefore each year's budget allocation covers a number of cohorts up until their respective deadline dates and the final allocation and spend varies depending on demand in the previous year.
- Additional funding will be invested over the next three years to implement the forthcoming 10-year plan for the Welsh in education workforce. A total of

£1.845m will be allocated in 2022-23 (an increase of £1m) with further increases of £0.5m in 2023-24 and £2m in 2024-25. This funding will be prioritised to support the aims of the plan, and is likely to include funding for the following amongst other developments that are still under consideration:

- expansion of the primary-secondary Welsh-medium conversion programme to provide support for teachers to transfer from teaching in the primary sector to teach in secondary.
- work with Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol and other stakeholders to increase the number of learner choosing to study Welsh at A Level in order to increase the future number of Welsh teachers.

2.40 I will be publishing figures in relation to progress against this target in the Cymraeg 2050 Annual Report for 2020-21.

2.41 The National Centre for Learning Welsh is leading on a pilot project to incentivise young Welsh speakers to return from universities to help teach Welsh in schools. They will be working with partners in the education sector to offer a training course for students at the end of the academic year. In future years the project will also include a placement period in a secondary school. It is hoped that this project will attract young people to teaching, and the Learn Welsh sector whilst also helping to increase the use of Welsh in schools.

### 3. Specific Areas

#### 3.1 Updates on allocations in 2021-22 budget

***Information on the allocation of £13.01 million for the National Centre for Learning Welsh, and an update on the £0.2m of funding that was redirected to fund Welsh language infrastructure projects.***

3.1.1 We allocated a total of £13.01m from the Welsh Language BEL to the National Centre for Learning Welsh (the Centre) in 2021-22. This allocation was split as follows: £8.660m to fund the 11 providers who deliver the training courses, £2.5m for the Cymraeg Gwaith (Work Welsh) initiative and £1.85m to maintain the running costs of the Centre.

3.1.2 Following an in-year reduction in funding during 2020-21 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the allocation for 2021-22 reinstated the Centre's budget to the pre-COVID-19 level (2020-21 final budget) with the exception of £0.2m. This £0.2m was redirected to fund Welsh language infrastructure projects.

3.1.3 In relation to linguistic infrastructure, a number of steps were taken during this financial year including establishing a panel to tackle issues of orthography, and a task and finish group to standardise terms in the field of equality, race and ethnicity. Between 16 March and 6 July 2021, we conducted a consultation on a draft national policy for Welsh language linguistic infrastructure. This groundwork is a great step forward in this policy area and was required before we could progress further.

3.1.4 The reduction of £0.2m in the Centre's funding did not affect the levels of service to learners and did not result in any job losses within the sector. The reduction was made possible by operational savings brought about by a large reduction in face-to-face lessons taking place, and due to the Centre developing different ways of working during the COVID-19 crisis.

3.1.5 Due to COVID-19, the vast majority of the Centre's Learn Welsh provision is being delivered online during 2021-22. Approximately 1,500 classes were moved to online platforms, and around 500 tutors delivered lessons from home to 13,000 learners in online classrooms. This shift in learning was made possible by the Centre reprioritising its work programme and accelerating the development of digital resources to facilitate the online learning.

3.1.6 The Centre also invested in developing new blended courses which were launched in May 2020. These courses allow learners to do some independent learning using online resources but also have formal regular contact with a tutor and other learners. 880 learners have registered on these blended courses. The Centre has also continued to invest in developing self-study online resources, some of them developed for staff working in specific sectors.

3.1.7 Cymraeg Gwaith's funding was fully reinstated to £2.5m in 2021-22 which has allowed that important initiative to return to its full capacity and to enhance the support it can give to specific sectors. Some face-to-face Cymraeg Gwaith courses have also restarted in the Nant Gwrtheyrn language centre.

***An update on applications for, and distribution of, the additional £2.2 million fund announced to support school-level late immersion Welsh language learning.***

3.1.8 The Cymraeg 2050 Work Programme for 2021-26 and the Programme for Government include our commitment to extend the Late Immersion Programme to ensure that all newcomers to the language are able to access Welsh-medium education when and where they need it, wherever they are on their language journey.

3.1.9 On 14 September 2021, we announced an investment of £2.2m in this financial year to support Welsh learners undertaking late immersion in schools and to support Welsh learners' progression in light of COVID-19. This grant funding is dedicated to expanding Welsh-medium late immersion provisions in schools and centres and each local authority had the opportunity to apply for funding of up to £100,000 for expenditure before the end of March 2022. This grant funding is specifically aimed at projects that will contribute to reaching the million Welsh speakers target. It will support investments that facilitate the development or growth of Welsh-medium immersion provision in particular:

- Support the development of latecomers centres / new immersion provision or expansion of existing provision.
- Training for staff in the provision of a Welsh-medium immersion teaching methodology.

- Projects that mitigate the effects of COVID-19 on learners in Welsh-medium education, having identified groups in need of additional language support.

3.1.10 In order to support the local authorities to prepare their bids, officials hosted two local authority meetings. This led to the submission of strong bids by all local authorities for the £2.2m funding. Key funding requests include: additional teaching time to expand current immersion provision or COVID related learner support; pilots for 'pop up' immersion provision; procurement of specialist training in immersion methodologies and resources; scoping projects to establish latecomer provision based on other LA models. Grant letters based on the bids submitted were issued to all local authorities on 1 December. This funding has been welcomed by local authorities and school practitioners across the board.

3.1.11 In this Budget, an additional £2.2m has been allocated from 2022-23 onwards to further enhance late immersion provision across Wales and we will monitor progress closely.

***Information on the £1.65 million within the Teacher Development and Support BEL to support the Sabbatical Scheme, and an update on the additional £1m allocated for bilingual resources to support effective implementation of the new Curriculum for Wales.***

#### Sabbatical Scheme

3.1.12 We propose to continue to support the Sabbatical Scheme from 2022-23 with an approximate budget of £3.6m per annum, to retain the same level of funding as previous years. The budget for the Sabbatical Scheme was previously drawn from the Teacher Development and Support BEL and the Raising School Standards BEL. From 2022-23 onwards, all funding will be allocated from the Teacher Development and Support BEL.

3.1.13 Following the publication of the [evaluation of the Sabbatical Scheme](#) in March 2021, we have been working with providers and the regional consortia and local authorities to address the recommendations and plan the provision for the 2022/23 and 2023/24 academic years to ensure that we are supporting local needs for improving the teaching and learning of Welsh. We have also worked with the providers to ensure that the courses can continue to be held via blended learning models, to provide more flexibility for schools and practitioners.

3.1.14 In addition to the Sabbatical Scheme, a total of approximately £2.7m has been allocated annually to the regional consortia and local authorities to support the local and regional delivery of Welsh language support for practitioners. We have also worked with the National Centre for Learning Welsh during 2021-22 to develop self-study courses tailored for education practitioners.

## £1m bilingual resources

3.1.15 Work is well underway developing resources and supporting materials for schools and settings linked to the Curriculum for Wales. We are prioritising development linked to notable changes in curriculum requirements and agreed priorities. These include new bilingual resources covering aspects of curriculum and assessment design and development, as well as those covering curriculum areas, including:

- Reading
- Mathematics and numeracy
- International languages
- British Sign Language
- Careers and work related experiences
- Media literacy and misinformation
- Politics
- Children's rights
- Welsh history, including Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic histories and contributions
- Global citizenship
- Music
- Dance

***Details regarding the allocation of £0.73 million for 'Cymraeg for Kids' and how it has been utilised.***

3.1.16 Details regarding the £0.73m allocation for Cymraeg for Kids is outlined in paragraphs 2.15-2.16.

## **3.2 Welsh Language Commissioner**

***Allocations and commentary in respect of the budget allocation for the Welsh Language Commissioner in 2022-23.***

3.2.1 The Welsh Language Commissioner's resource allocation for 2022-23 is £3.327m, maintaining the revenue funding at £3.207m and providing a non-cash depreciation budget of £0.120m.

3.2.2 In his budget estimate for 2022-23, the Commissioner requested additional revenue funding to allow him to fund legal cases relevant to his work and functions. However, we recognise that it is impossible for the Commissioner to accurately predict whether he will need to fund legal cases during a financial year and what the costs will be. We will therefore work with the Commissioner to monitor this situation during the financial year.

3.2.3 In 2021-22, the Commissioner received an additional capital allocation of £0.138m to support essential upgrades to the IT system. Although some of this was planned expenditure, this allocation also helped the Commissioner to recover from a serious cyber-attack in December 2020. We will provide capital



investment of £0.050m in 2022-23 to help the Commissioner to continue with work to upgrade the IT system following the cyber-attack.

### **3.3 Capital expenditure in relation to the Welsh language**

#### ***Detailed progress on expanding capacity in Welsh-medium schools and the distribution of the Welsh Medium Capital Grant across local authorities in Wales.***

- 3.3.1 This budget is located within the Education Infrastructure BEL of the Education and Welsh Language MEG. The first round of Welsh-medium capital funding during 2018 has supported 46 projects across 20 local authorities, leading to 2,818 additional Welsh-medium childcare and education places. Most of the 46 projects are progressing well, however, the pandemic has had some impact with the completion dates of some projects moved to later in 2022.
- 3.3.2 A further £30m was announced in March 2021 to support capital projects dedicated to growing the use of the Welsh language in education according to local WESP needs. The funding is a second tranche of investment from the Welsh-medium Capital Grant, established in 2018 to support capital projects dedicated to supporting and growing the use of the Welsh language in education. This is on top of the existing allocation announced for Band B of the 21st Century Schools and Colleges Programme. The Expressions of Interest window closed on 22 October 2021. Bids in excess of £125m were received are they currently being assessed alongside draft WESPs and immersion grant proposals.
- 3.3.3 This draft Budget outlines an investment of £45m over the next three years (£15m per annum) to provide continued support for our Welsh-medium capital programme to increase in opportunities for learners to be taught through the medium of Welsh. The funding required to support outstanding commitments against the first round of investment will continue to be managed as part of the 21st Century Schools and Colleges programme.

#### **Summary**

The budget as relevant to the Welsh Language in the Education and Welsh Language MEG Draft Budget for 2022-23 is presented to the Committee for consideration.

**Jeremy Miles MS**  
**Minister for Education and Welsh Language**

## ANNEX A – WELSH LANGUAGE BUDGETS WITHIN THE EDUCATION AND WELSH LANGUAGE MEG FOR DRAFT BUDGET 2022-23, 2021-22 FORECASTS AND 2020-21 FINAL OUTTURN

### Resource budgets

Action	BEL Description	2020-21 Final Outturn £000s	2021-22 1st Supp Budget £000s	2021-22 Forecast Outturn (Period 7) £000s	2021-22 Revised Baseline £000s	2022-23 Changes £000s	2022-23 Draft Budget £000s	2023-24 Changes £000s	2023-24 Indicative Draft Budget £000s	2024-25 Changes £000s	2023-24 Indicative Draft Budget £000s
Welsh in Education	Welsh in Education	12,710	13,475	15,034	13,475	4,300	17,775	3,000	20,775	3,500	24,275
<b>Total Welsh in Education</b>		<b>12,710</b>	<b>13,475</b>	<b>15,034</b>	<b>13,475</b>	<b>4,300</b>	<b>17,775</b>	<b>3,000</b>	<b>20,775</b>	<b>3,500</b>	<b>24,275</b>
Welsh Language	Welsh Language	21,232	20,949	21,658	21,065	1,384	22,449	0	22,449	0	22,449
	Welsh Language Commissioner	3,136	3,323	3,248	3,207	120	3,327	0	3,327	0	3,327
<b>Total Welsh Language</b>		<b>24,368</b>	<b>24,272</b>	<b>24,906</b>	<b>24,272</b>	<b>1,504</b>	<b>25,776</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>25,776</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>25,776</b>
<b>EDUCATION - TOTAL RESOURCE BUDGET</b>		<b>37,078</b>	<b>37,747</b>	<b>39,940</b>	<b>37,747</b>	<b>5,804</b>	<b>43,551</b>	<b>3,000</b>	<b>46,551</b>	<b>3,500</b>	<b>50,051</b>

### Capital budgets

Action	BEL Description	2020-21 Final Outturn £000s	2021-22 1st Supplementary Budget £000s	2021-22 Forecast Outturn (Period 7) £000s	2021-22 Final Budget £000s	2022-23 Draft Budget £000s	2023-24 Indicative Draft Budget £000s	2023-24 Indicative Draft Budget £000s
Welsh Language	Welsh Language	148	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Welsh Language Commissioner	293	30	256	30	50	50	50
<b>Total Welsh Language</b>		<b>441</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>256</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>50</b>
<b>EDUCATION - TOTAL CAPITAL BUDGET</b>		<b>441</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>256</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>50</b>