

The Vale of Glamorgan Council

Cabinet Meeting: 22 January, 2018

Report of the Cabinet Member for Learning & Culture

21st Century Schools Programme - Band B

Purpose of the Report

1. To seek Cabinet approval to progress the proposed Band B phase of the 21st Century Schools Programme.
2. To seek Cabinet approval for the additional employee resources required to manage this ambitious programme.

Recommendations

1. That Cabinet approve the progression of the proposed Band B School Investment Programme, subject to the approval of the final Capital Programme 2018/19 by Full Council.
2. That Cabinet approve the establishment of additional posts required to manage the School Investment Programme.
3. That delegated authority is given to the Director of Learning and Skills in consultation with the Cabinet member for Learning and Culture to establish new posts required to manage and deliver the programme.

Reasons for the Recommendations

1. To ensure that the projects approved by Welsh Government are progressed in a timely manner subject to full consultation on the detail of the individual schemes.
2. The Council ensures that the 21st Century Schools team is fully resourced in order to project manage and implement the Council's ambitious School Investment Programme.
3. To ensure the necessary capacity is in place to successfully deliver the programme.

Background

3. The 21st Century Schools Programme is a long term strategic investment in educational estate throughout Wales. It is a unique collaboration between Welsh Government, the Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA), local authorities, colleges and diocesan authorities.

4. Band A of the 21st Century Schools Programme will conclude in 2019. The Council's Strategic Outline Programme for the transformation and enhancement of a number of schools under Band A of the 21st Century Schools Programme was approved by Welsh Government in December 2012. The funding envelope for the programme was £31.849m of which £17.752m was funded by the Council and £14.097m was funded from Welsh Government.
5. The second wave of investment, Band B, commences in April 2019 and requires the Council to meet the following investment objectives:
 - addressing growth in demand for Welsh medium education;
 - reductions of surplus capacity and inefficiency in the system;
 - expansion of schools in areas of increased demand for educational services;
 - address condition of educational assets; and
 - making assets available for community use where demand exists.
6. The Council presented its Strategic Outline Programme (SOP) to Welsh Government on 31 July 2017. This document proposed an investment of £142.417m, £83.8245m of which would be funded by Welsh Government.
7. On 10 November 2017, the Education Secretary Kirsty Williams announced that the Council's proposals met Welsh Government's investment objectives and subject to approval of the individual Business Cases, Welsh Government is committed to supporting all of the projects presented. This was confirmed in writing on 6 December 2017.

Relevant Issues and Options

8. The Council is required to prepare and submit individual business cases to Welsh Government for the schemes listed under Band B of the 21st Century Schools Programme.
9. Each business case will provide Welsh Government with evidence to support the validity of each project and also provide assurance both for Welsh Government and the Council of the delivery of these capital investment projects.
10. Cabinet approval to undertake statutory consultation where appropriate will also be required for any of the applicable schemes.
11. Cabinet approval has already been provided for the first three projects identified for Band B funding which relate to the transformation of Secondary Education in Barry.
12. Expanding schools and developing new schools is required where there is a shortfall in school places to meet recognised demand in both Welsh and English medium. This may arise due to large scale housing developments planned for an area, increased demand and changes to parental preference for schooling.
13. Addressing concerns relating to the condition of some of the Council's education assets is a key priority for this programme.
14. The delivery of the Band A programme was achieved within existing staff resources. It has been recognised that Band B is a much more ambitious programme and therefore requires additional employee capacity.

15. In order to ensure that this ambitious programme is achieved, it is essential that programme management and delivery is fully resourced. To achieve this, the following posts will be required:

- 21st Century Schools Programme Manager (Operational Manager - New);
- 21st Century Schools Project Manager (existing vacant post);
- 21st Century Schools Strategic Project Manager (existing vacant post - re-designated);
- Graduate Trainee 21st Century Schools Officer (New);

The funding for the new posts has been included in the cost projections for Band B as project management costs and will therefore be funded from the overall Band B funding envelope.

Resource Implications (Financial and Employment)

16. The initial capital proposals that were reported to Cabinet on 20th November 2017 include funding for the initial Band B proposals as outlined in the initial SOP submitted to WG. The funding assumes that 50% funding will be available from Welsh Government to fund non faith school schemes and 85% funding will be available for Voluntary Aided faith school schemes. A detailed business case will be required for each scheme contained in the Band B Programme.

Band B Scheme	WG Grant Funding	S106	Capital Receipt	General Capital Funding	Prudential Borrowing	Reserves	Total
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
Mixed Sex Secondary School	24,420	325	10,366	2,623	2,000	9,106	48,840
Welsh Medium Secondary	10,711.5	3,621	586	2,450.5	0	4,054	21,423
Primary Provision in Western Vale	2,092.5	1,639	453.5	0	0	0	4,185
Barry Waterfront	3,708.5	3,708.5					7,417
Cowbridge Primary Provision	4,923.5	4,423.5	500				9,847
St David's Primary School	3,557	555				73	4,185
St Nicholas Primary School	1,349	1,349					2,698
Faith School	27,078.5		3,389	110.5	1,279		31,857
Penarth Cluster Review Primary Provision to include Cosmeston	4,619.5	1,665.5		245.5	2,708.5		9,239
Review Nursery Provision	1,363	927	181.5			254.5	2,726
Total	83,823	18,213.5	15,476	5,429.5	5,987.5	13,487.5	142,417

17. The funding proposals above assume that £15.476M of capital receipts across 8 sites will be realised. Values are based on a prudent estimate of the likely receipt. There are a number of issues that can impact the value of a capital receipt such as access, drainage, ecology issues and failure to realise the anticipated value in receipts will mean the above proposals need to be revised accordingly.
18. The funding proposals also utilise S106 contributions from developers. Due to the lead time required to drawn down on the funding a number of S106 contributions are included for developments that have not yet commenced on site. There is risk associated with these contributions as the development may not go ahead however in order to provide for the anticipated additional capacity required as a result of these planned developments they must be reflected into the Band B programme. If some of these developments do not proceed this schools programme will need to be reviewed.
19. Some of the schemes included in the Band B proposals may require land purchase. As the cost of this land is not known it is not currently reflected in the affordability proposals. Schemes may be subject to additional value engineering and/or balances be met from the Councils available Capital funding.
20. It is anticipated that additional staff resources shall be required to deliver the Band B School Investment Programme. The full year cost of the posts required to support the delivery of Band B is £228k. These additional costs have been included as project management costs for the schemes and will therefore be recharged to capital and funded from within the overall Band B funding envelope.

Sustainability and Climate Change Implications

21. All new buildings developed as part of Band B will meet modern building BREEAM Excellent standards and be built to an EPCA rating.
22. All projects in Band B will provide employment opportunities for local residents during the construction phase of the project and provide further employment opportunities once the school is operational.
23. As with all 21st Century schools projects, a minimum of 80% of materials and services will be procured locally.

Legal Implications (to Include Human Rights Implications)

24. Powers for councils to develop school organisation proposals derive from the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 which was enacted on 1 October 2013 and are guided by the School Organisation Code (2013) Statutory Document Number: 006/2013.

Crime and Disorder Implications

25. There are no Crime and Disorder implications arising from this report.

Equal Opportunities Implications (to include Welsh Language issues)

26. Individual proposals will be subject to Equality Impact Assessment in advance of public consultation.
27. The proposed programme will increase the opportunities for learning through the medium of Welsh and ensure accessibility of education through the medium of Welsh.

28. All new buildings will be fully DDA compliant and accessible.
29. The Council must comply with the public sector equality duty (section 149) of the Equality Act 2010.

Corporate/Service Objectives

30. The priorities and principles of this proposal are reflected in the Council's Wellbeing Outcome 3: An Aspirational and Culturally Vibrant Vale, ensuring children and young people have the best opportunities to receive a first class education.

Policy Framework and Budget

31. This is a matter for Executive decision by the Cabinet (subject to approval of the final Capital Programme 2018/19 by Council).

Consultation (including Ward Member Consultation)

32. Consultation with all interested parties with regard to the individual proposals will be carried out in accordance with legislation, following the statutory processes set out in the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013.

Relevant Scrutiny Committee

33. Learning and Culture.

Background Papers

None.

Contact Officer

Lisa Lewis –Operational Manager, Strategy & Resources

Officers Consulted

Jane O'Leary - Operational Manager, Planning Services
Mark Haynes - Project Manager, Consultancy
Gemma Jones - Principal Accountant
Carys Lord - Head of Finance

Responsible Officer:

Paula Ham, Director of Learning and Skills