



EDUCATION FOR LIFE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 9TH APRIL 2013

SUBJECT: OUR SCHOOLS, OUR FUTURE - UPDATE

REPORT BY: ACTING DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To update Members on developments in relation to 21st century schools and capital programme works.

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 The report links directly to the Education for Life, sustainability, regeneration and equality strategies.

3. LINKS TO STRATEGY

Strategic Outline Programme (SOP)

Priority 1 bid – Former St. Ilan Welsh-medium Development £20m

- 3.1 A statutory notice was published on 18th February 2013 and ended 18th March 2013. In the event of there being no statutory objections the matter will be determined by Cabinet in the very near future. In the event of statutory objections, Welsh Ministers will determine, probably late summer or early autumn.
- 3.2 Phase 1 is likely to be completed June 2013 with the initial Year 7 intake taking place September 2013.
- 3.3 The process for Phase 2 of the development (relocation of YGG Caerffili) has commenced with the tender process expected to be determined in the next few months. The intention is to relocate YGG Caerffili by September 2014.

Priority 2 bid – Rhymney 3-18 proposal £12m

- 3.4 An informal consultation process is ongoing and a proposed safe route to schools scheme is nearing completion.

Priority 3 bid – Secondary Rationalisation £60m

3.5 Cabinet agreed a Phase 1 process at its meeting on 29th January 2013. This was agreed as follows:

- Arrange a Members Seminar to explain the present position in more detail.
- Share key data from strategic plans, including for example curriculum data, and confirmation of key issues to address in determining an initial phase of secondary rationalisation.
- Consult with Education for Life Scrutiny Committee on a way forward.
- Agree specific proposals for an initial phase to be considered by Cabinet, to permit commencement of consultation and statutory processes.

3.6 The process commenced with a Members Seminar on Thursday 7 March 2013. It is intended to seek approval from Council on a Phase 1 proposal(s) by August 2013. This will then involve formal processes in the Autumn Term 2013.

3.7 Scrutiny Committee will receive a presentation outlining a possible way forward at the meeting.

Capital Update 2012/13

3.8 A detailed report was considered by Scrutiny at its meeting on 24 July 2012.

3.9 The Welsh Government announced an additional capital maintenance allocation for CCBC of £778,176 on 15 March 2013. Bid details were required by 20 March 2013.

3.10 It is proposed to utilise these monies as follows:

SCHEME	£'000
St. James Primary – additional provision to meet costs	200
Cwm Ifor Primary – additional provision to meet costs	200
Markham Primary – roof upgrades	40
Trinity Fields – adaptations/build	100
Waunfawr Primary – fit for purpose works	100
Y.G. Gilfach Fargoed – roofing upgrades	100
YGG Y Castell – fascia boards, guttering	38

Capital 2013/14

3.11 Proposals were also considered by Scrutiny on 24th July 2012. The 2013/14 programme for Education & Lifelong Learning was agreed by Council on 27 February 2013, as follows:

SCHEME	ACTUAL 2013/14 £000	INDICATIVE	
		2014/15 £000	2015/16 £000
Demographic/legislative – additional classroom accommodation/fit for purpose works	200	200	225
School Security – CCTV installations, fencing, alarms, etc.	100	100	100
Asset Management – priority works	750	600	600
Health & Safety – toilet upgrades, resurfacing, traffic management	300	300	300
School boiler replacement programme. Improved energy efficiency	500	224	220
21 st Century Schools	4,000	-	-
Fochriw Youth Centre Match Funding	126	-	-
Libraries	-	-	70
Caerphilly Library	4,200	-	-
	10,176	1,424	1,515

Capital 2014/15

- 3.12 As regards 2014/15, the proposals for the demographic/legislative, asset management and boiler replacement budget are as follows:

Demographic/legislative 200k

	£'000
Abercarn Primary – additional accommodation	200
	<u>200</u>

Asset Management 600k

	£'000
Bedwas High – B block roof	125
Cefn Fforest Primary – Infant roof	75
Plasyfelin Primary – Junior roof	125
Upper Rhymney Primary – Infant roofing, windows and doors upgrades	100
Ystrad Mynach Primary – hall/canteen roof	75
Various schools – 17th edition electrical rewiring	100
	<u>600</u>

School Boiler Replacement Programme

	£'000
Cwmaber Infants (accelerated into 2013/14 due to urgency)	60
St. Cenydd Comprehensive – lower block	100
Upper Rhymney Primary	60
	<u>220</u>

- 3.13 Should Members support these proposals then an officer decision will be made on the intranet to seek approval to proceed on this basis to ensure sufficient forward planning for works to be progressed principally for the school summer holiday period 2014.
- 3.14 The remainder of the programme follows an annual process where schools are given an opportunity in the autumn term to bid for projects. This usually involves approval of schemes with a 50/50 contribution by LA and schools alike. This maximises the limited funding available and has proven a popular initiative over recent years.

4. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 Impact Assessment screening has been completed in accordance with the Council's Strategic Equality plan and no potential for unlawful discrimination has been identified affecting one or more of the target equality groups.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 These have been outlined in the report.

6. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 None.

7. CONSULTATIONS

- 7.1 All comments received have been reflected in the report.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 8.1 Members to note progress in 21st century schools developments, consider a way forward in relation to secondary rationalisation and note developments re capital works.

9. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

- 9.1 To be apprised of developments.

10. STATUTORY POWER

- 10.1 The School Standards and Framework Act 1998.
The Education (School Organisation Proposals) (Wales) Regulations 1999.
The Education (Maintained Special Schools) (Wales) Regulations 1999.
The Change of Category of Maintained Schools (Wales) Regulations 2001.
The Learning and Skills Act 2000.
The School Organisation Proposals by the National Assembly for Wales Regulations 2004.

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