



## **EDUCATION FOR LIFE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - 23RD SEPTEMBER 2014**

**SUBJECT: 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY SCHOOLS: GATEWAY REVIEW**

**REPORT BY: ACTING DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

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### **1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To present the outcome of the Office of Government Commerce (OGC) Gateway Review that was undertaken as part of the Welsh Government's validation of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools Programme.

### **2. SUMMARY**

- 2.1 The report presents the findings of the Gateway Review for Caerphilly's 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools Programme. Overall the Programme is given a green/amber rating, which is the second highest out of a possible five ratings and represents a positive outcome. The review also makes five recommendations which are detailed below.

### **3. LINKS TO STRATEGY**

- 3.1 The Gateway Review process is used by the Welsh Government to evaluate and monitor progress with regard to delivery of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools Programme. The actual review process is the OGC Gateway Review 0: Strategic Assessment. The purpose is to review the outcomes and objectives for the programme and confirm the Welsh Government's 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools Strategy is being delivered.

### **4. THE REPORT**

- 4.1 The full report is attached as Appendix 1. The review was undertaken between 19<sup>th</sup> May 2014 and 21<sup>st</sup> May 2014. The composition of the Review Team is summarised below:

Review Team Leader: Martin Dove

Review Team Members: Peter Jones  
David Paget

- 4.2 Overall Caerphilly's 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools Programme is rated a Green/Amber in terms of delivery confidence by the Review Team.

The outcome of a gateway review is assessed as one of five levels of delivery confidence as shown below:

<b>RAG</b>	<b>Criteria Description</b>
Green	Successful delivery of the project/programme to time, cost and quality appears highly likely and there are no major outstanding issues that at this stage appear to threaten delivery significantly
Amber/Green	Successful delivery appears probable however constant attention will be needed to ensure risks do not materialise into major issues threatening delivery
Amber	Successful delivery appears feasible but significant issues already exist requiring management attention. These appear resolvable at this stage and if addressed promptly, should not present a cost/schedule overrun
Amber/Red	Successful delivery of the project/programme is in doubt with major risks or issues apparent in a number of key areas. Urgent action is needed to ensure these are addressed, and whether resolution is feasible
Red	Successful delivery of the project/programme appears to be unachievable. There are major issues on project/programme definition, schedule, budget required quality or benefits delivery, which at this stage do not appear to be manageable or resolvable. The Project/Programme may need re-base lining and/or overall viability re-assessed

4.3 The report made five recommendations. These are shown in the table below along with the progress made in their implementation:

<b>Recommendation</b>	<b>Progress</b>
1. Determine the arrangements for the design of the new school at Oakdale.	Completed
2. Review governance arrangements and project management responsibilities between the project board and the interim Governing Body for the new school at Oakdale.	Completed
3. Undertake further local stakeholder engagement for the upper Rhymney Valley project.	In progress for completion by October 2014
4. Review and agree plans for the Upper Rhymney Valley project.	Scheduled for completion by March 2015
5. Develop an integrated plan for capital and education, human resources, ICT and the activities for each project.	Completed

4.4 In terms of the key findings, the report is positive in many aspects of all three projects. In terms of the Welsh Medium Development (Y Gwindy) the Review Team report confidence that the project will be completed within budget and on time. With respect to the Secondary School Project at Islwyn West, the review recognises the successful conclusion of the statutory consultation period. However, it also highlights the need for urgency to ensure the project is delivered on time. The review also acknowledges the complexity of the project in terms of the design needed to address both the temporary pupil bulge and the constraints of the site. With regard to the Upper Rhymney Valley, the review recognises the work that has taken place to date, but also highlights the need for further stakeholder engagement, which is being progressed.

4.5 In terms of overall progress, the review is positive about the project and risk management. However, it identifies the need for the integration of the contractor and education plans, with plans for human resources, ICT and other activities. This is a key recommendation which has subsequently been progressed.

## **5. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 In delivering Caerphilly's 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools Strategy, relevant Equality Impact Assessments are undertaken when appropriate on specific projects.

- 5.2 The Strategy supports the Council's Strategic Equality Objectives 3 and 4 - Physical Access and Communications Access as all new schools are designed and built to be fully accessible.
- 5.3 The OGC Gateway Review, in its recommendations, notes the need for further stakeholder engagement in the Upper Rhymney Valley. The issues around this recommendation are noted in more detail on page 3 of the Review document.
- 5.4 This further consultation will be done in line with the Council's approved Public Engagement Strategy and the guidance in the Equalities Consultation and Monitoring document, ensuring that the views of all stakeholders, including those who come under the protected characteristics, continue to be taken into account in the decision-making process. This then also supports the Council's Strategic Equality Objective 5 - Engagement and Participation.

## **6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 There are no direct financial implications to this report.

## **7. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1 There are no direct personnel implications to this report.

## **8. CONSULTATIONS**

- 8.1 The views of consultees have been incorporated into this report.

## **9. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 9.1 Members are requested to note the contents of this report.

## **10. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 10.1 To ensure that Members are aware of the outcome of the Gateway Review.

## **11. STATUTORY POWER**

- 11.1 The 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools Programme is being delivered in accordance with the Local Government Acts 1972 and 2000, as well as School Standards and organisation (Wales) Act 2013.

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Consultees: Directorate Senior Management Team  
Councillor Rhianon Passmore, Cabinet Member for Education & Lifelong Learning  
Nicolle Scammell, Acting Director of Corporate Services & S151  
David A Thomas, Senior Policy Officer (Equalities & Welsh Language)  
Stuart Rosser, Interim Chief Executive

Appendices:

Appendix 1: Gateway Review Report.