



CABINET – 10TH APRIL 2019

SUBJECT: WELSH GOVERNMENT 21ST CENTURY SCHOOLS AND EDUCATION PROGRAMME – 3G MULTI USE ALL WEATHER PITCH AT BLACKWOOD COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL

REPORT BY: CORPORATE DIRECTOR FOR EDUCATION AND CORPORATE SERVICES

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To provide Members with an update on the 3G multi use all weather pitch at Blackwood Comprehensive School and seek agreement to establish an earmarked reserve facility in the Education area of the Council's accounts for major maintenance repairs and ultimately renewal of fixed life elements.
- 1.2 To provide Members with an update on the School 21st Century Schools and Education Band A Programme in relation to Trinity Fields Special School.

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 Through effective financial and project management of the 21st Century School and Education Programme Band A the Council identified an underspend that Members agreed to earmark for a 3G multi use all weather pitch at Blackwood Comprehensive School and remodelling works at Trinity Fields Special School.
- 2.2 The Business Case for the Blackwood Comprehensive School facility was agreed by Welsh Government (WG) in October 2018. The scheme is due for completion at the start of the Summer term 2019.
- 2.3 A Community Use Agreement has been signed by both Blackwood Comprehensive School and the Council to ensure maximum usage and engagement on the site. This will generate income to provide sustainability and provide revenue to maintain the 3G multi use all weather pitch in the longer term.
- 2.4 The Business Case for the remodelling of Trinity Fields Special School was agreed by WG in November 2018. A working group has been established to ensure the effective and efficient delivery of the project. The project is being undertaken in manageable stages as the majority of the work will be carried out with the pupils in situ or during school holidays. The first priority of the plan is in relation to the additional classroom in order to be able to address the growing demand on the school.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 Members are asked to agree the establishment of an earmarked reserve facility in the Education area of the Council's accounts for major maintenance repairs and ultimately renewal of fixed life elements of the 3G multi use all weather pitch at Blackwood Comprehensive School.

3.2 Members note the progress in relation to the investment at Trinity Fields Special School.

4. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

4.1 In order to ensure the 3G multi use all weather pitch at Blackwood Comprehensive School is sustainable, maintained to an approved standard and a fund is available to ultimately renew the fixed life elements.

5. THE REPORT

5.1 The total allocation to Caerphilly for the 21st Century Schools and Education Band A Programme amounted to £56.5m. This being funded 50% by Welsh Government (WG) and 50% by the Council.

5.2 Through effective management of each individual scheme officers identified an underspend within this programme that Members agreed to earmark for a 3G multi use all weather pitch at Blackwood Comprehensive School and remodelling works at Trinity Fields Special School.

5.3 The planned works at Trinity Fields include:

- The installation of new “through room” hoist systems within classrooms that go directly into bathroom areas from classes.
- The adaption of toilet facilities to become more accessible to need.
- Upgrading of withdrawal rooms to create safe and welcoming environment to include the provision of natural lighting.
- Improvement and relocation of pupil kitchen area.
- The creation of a home living environment to increase the Independent Living Skills of pupils.
- Creation of a new ball pit area.
- Hydrotherapy pool improvements and adaptations which will increase the lifespan and accessibility of the provision for all pupils and the wider Community.
- Increasing storage facilities to allow for the more complex needs of pupils i.e. increase in wheelchairs, medical equipment.
- Improvement to the outdoor learning area.
- Upgrade IT facilities.
- Improve ventilation within the school.
- The creation of independent living areas and an additional classroom.

5.4 A working group has been established to ensure the effective and efficient delivery of the Trinity Fields project as outlined in 5.3 above. The works will be undertaken in manageable stages as the majority of the work will be carried out with the pupils in situ or during school holidays. The first priority of the plan is in relation to the additional classroom in order to be able to address the growing demand on the school which is anticipated to be available for use early in the Autumn term.

5.5 The Business Case for the Blackwood Comprehensive School facility was agreed by WG in January 2018. The scheme is due for completion during the Summer term 2019.

5.6 A 3G multi use all weather pitch at Blackwood Comprehensive School will provide the school with a much needed state of the art facility that will enhance the current curriculum delivery offered and will match the schools sporting tradition, achievements and aspirations for sporting excellence.

5.7 The project also supports Welsh Government’s commitment to Community Use of learning facilities in Prosperity for All, by ensuring the increased Community Use of Education Assets.

- 5.8 A Community Use Agreement has been agreed by the Headteacher and Governing Body of Blackwood Comprehensive School and signed by the Chair of Governors on 09/07/18 to ensure maximum usage and community engagement. This will generate income to sustain the facility and provide revenue to maintain and replace the provision in the longer term. The Council's Sport and Leisure Services will support the school in managing this facility in a structured manner to ensure maximum use.

The agreement confirms that the facility shall be made available for Community Use as follows:

Hours of Access*

Term Time

| | | |
|---------------|------------|-----------|
| Community Use | Mon – Fri: | 5pm – 9pm |
| | Sat: | 9am – 6pm |
| | Sun: | 9am – 6pm |

School Holidays

| | | |
|---------------|------------|-----------|
| Community Use | Mon – Fri: | 9am – 9pm |
| | Sat: | 9am – 6pm |
| | Sun: | 9am – 6pm |

*Excluding Bank Holidays and Christmas Closures

- 5.9 The Community Use Agreement establishes a management group to oversee the agreed management and operating arrangements. The group will consist of the Headteacher, two Governors, two Council representatives and relevant Cabinet Member.
- 5.10 The agreement states that the school will endeavour to ensure that the cost of operating community use at this facility will be covered by the income for such use and any surplus will be utilised in the following order of priority:
- Contribute to a contingency or sinking fund for major maintenance, repairs and ultimately renewal of fixed life elements of the facility.
 - Improve, replace and increase the stock of sports equipment for use in connection with the facility as required.
- 5.11 In order to implement the agreement in 5.10 above an earmarked reserve facility will need to be established within the Council's accounts.

6. ASSUMPTIONS

- 6.1 The associated revenue costs and the renewal of the fixed life elements will be met from the income generated.

7. LINKS TO RELEVANT COUNCIL POLICIES

- 7.1 The Sport and Active Recreation Strategy 2019-2029 sets out a future purpose and direction for the provision of sport and active recreation in Caerphilly County Borough Council. It establishes the key principles and vision which will inform future decisions and actions.
- 7.2 Caerphilly's Attainment Strategy: To raise standards and ensure our learners are healthy, confident, proud and ambitious and can access high quality educational opportunities, settings and experience.

7.3 Caerphilly's Wellbeing Objectives 2018 to 2023. This proposal will assist the Council in meeting these objectives in particular the following:

Well-being Objective 1 – Improve Education opportunities for all

Well-being Objective 2 – Enabling Employment

Well-being Objective 3 – Provide assistance or support to help improve people's health and well being

Well-being Objective 5 – Supports a Healthy Lifestyle in accordance with the Sustainable Development Principle within the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.

8. WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS

8.1 The Well-Being of Future Generation (Wales) Act 2015 is about improving the social, economic, environmental and cultural wellbeing of Wales. It requires public bodies to think more about the long-term, working with people and communities, looking to prevent problems and take a more joined up approach. This will create a Wales that we all want to live in, now and in the future. The Act puts in place seven well-being goals:

- A prosperous Wales.
- A resilient Wales.
- A healthier Wales.
- A more equal Wales.
- A Wales of cohesive communities.
- A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh Language.
- A globally responsible Wales.

The Act sets out the sustainable development principle against which all public bodies in Wales should assess their decision-making. The aim of the legislation is to ensure the well-being of future generations through maximising the contribution public bodies make towards the well-being goals. In using the sustainable development principle it is incumbent that the authority considers the whole of the population it serves and considers the effect of its actions on future generations. The principle, also known as the five ways of working is assessed below:

- **Long Term** - Provide 21st Century provision on school sites for both Education and the wider community that will be managed effectively to ensure maximum usage and engagement. This will generate income to sustain the facility in the long term. The Education Attainment Strategy and the Council's Sport and Active Recreation Strategy establishes the key principles and vision which will inform future decisions.
- **Prevention** - Expansion of the provision available on our Education Estates will support all learners in their long term Education and Skills outcome in that they are more likely to succeed if their Educational experience is positive. In addition the proposals will support a healthier lifestyle and improve well-being for both learners and the wider community, reducing the demand for Public Services. The Council will continue to support its communities to enable them to take responsibility for their own health and levels of physical activity.
- **Integration** - The proposals are designed to maximise the use of the school assets in increasing the community use of learning facilities. This aligns with the Welsh Government "Prosperity For All" and is recognised in the Sport and Active Recreation Strategy that activity can take place across the Authority in a wide variety of sites.
- **Collaboration** - To work collaboratively with all stakeholders to continue to improve the sport and leisure facilities on our education estate ensuring these are opened up to the wider Community.
- **Involvement** - Through collaborative working the Council will ensure that the needs of its learners and the wider community are met.

9. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 An EIA screening has been completed in accordance with the Council's Strategic Equality Plan and supplementary guidance. No potential for unlawful discrimination and/or low level or minor negative impact has been identified; therefore a full EIA has not been carried out.

10. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 There are no financial implications in respect of this report.
- 10.2 The project is nearing completion and early indications shows that the project will be delivered on time and within the allocated budget of £875K.

11. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

- 11.1 No personnel implications.

12. CONSULTATIONS

- 12.1 The draft report was distributed as detailed below. All comments received have been reflected in this version of the report.

13. STATUTORY POWER

- 13.1 The School Standard and Framework Act 1998
The Local Government Act 2000
The Learning and Skills Act 2000.

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Background Papers:
Community Use Agreement