



EDUCATION FOR LIFE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 5TH JULY 2016

SUBJECT: 21ST CENTURY SCHOOLS - UPDATE

REPORT BY: CHIEF EDUCATION OFFICER

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To update Members on the three 21st Century Schools (Band A) Schemes.

2. SUMMARY

2.1 The report provides an update in respect of the three schemes supported by Welsh Government in relation to Band A (2014-2019).

2.2 The total Band A approved sum is £53.5m, as follows:

- Y Gwyndy £20m
- Islwyn High School £24m & £1.5m extension *
- Abertysswg/Pontlloctyn Primary £8m

* The full business case (FBC) made provision for £2m to also be spent on Blackwood Comprehensive.

2.3 The funding is on a 50/50 basis with Welsh Government. CCBC has already identified and set aside its 50% share of the £53.5m sum.

3. LINKS TO STRATEGY

3.1 The report considers the use of resources within Education to ensure the Council's key strategies are best achieved.

3.2 The report links directly to the Education for Life, sustainability, regeneration and equality strategies. The report also links to the Learning theme of Caerphilly Delivers, the Local Service Board single integrated plan.

4. THE REPORT

4.1 The three schemes progressing at the current time in relation to Band A (2014-2019) are as follows:

- Y Gwyndy (Welsh Medium development)
- Islwyn High School
- Abertysswg/Pontlloctyn Primary

Y Gwyndy

- 4.2 Phase 1 (200 place Secondary) was completed for September 2013 to allow 2 years of intake.
- 4.3 Phase 2 (relocation of YGG Caerffili) was completed by August 2015 and the new school opened at the commencement of the 2015/16 academic year as planned.
- 4.4 Phase 3 (remaining 700 place Secondary) was completed late Autumn term 2015.
- 4.5 The First Minister officially opened phases 2 and 3 on 9 December 2015.
- 4.6 Phase 4, comprising a 3G pitch, junior sized grass pitch and hard play areas. Phase 4 works commenced in May and completion expected mid/late October 2016..
- 4.7 The overall allocation for Y Gwyndy scheme was £20m, based on a bid at 2011 prices. It is anticipated that the overall project sum will be contained within the £20m.

Islwyn High School

- 4.8 An update report was considered by Scrutiny on 22 September 2015. Since that date the costs of the permanent extension were confirmed, resulting in an updated anticipated project target cost of £24.822m.
- 4.9 The build contract is progressing well and generally ahead of schedule. The BREEAM design stage assessment has been awarded as excellent.
- 4.10 The planned completion date remains as end April 2017.
- 4.11 Scrutiny, at its meeting on 24 May, agreed to invite the Headteacher to this Scrutiny meeting to discuss concerns re the school's playing field provision.

Abertysswg/Pontlottyn Primary

- 4.12 Welsh Government approved the full business case (FBC) in January 2016. A total sum of £6.884m was anticipated at that stage.
- 4.13 The tender process was completed and the costs were higher than anticipated. A revised total scheme cost has now been estimated at £8.035m. The Welsh Government has given its approval on 13 June to a 50% contribution to a maximum of £4m.
- 4.14 This has resulted in a project delay. The build programme is anticipated to take 12 months and is now programmed to be completed for opening for January 2018.

Presentation & Displays

- 4.15 Details of all 3 projects are on display. These incorporate designs and sketch layouts.
- 4.16 The report is also supplemented by a presentation in respect of the Y Gwyndy development.

5. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Equality impact assessments were produced as part of the statutory processes for each of the three schemes.
- 5.2 The LA has an obligation under section 88 and Schedule 10 of the Equality Act 2010 to prepare an accessibility strategy. This is a strategy for increasing the extent to which disabled pupils can participate in the schools' curriculums; improving the physical environment of the schools for the purpose of increasing the extent to which disabled pupils are able to take

advantage of education and benefits, facilities or services provided or offered by the schools and improving the delivery to disabled pupils of information which is readily accessible to pupils who are not disabled.

5.3 The three schemes have been developed in accordance with the strategy.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 These have been outlined in the report.

7. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

7.1 These are being developed for each scheme as they progress to school opening.

8. CONSULTATIONS

8.1 The draft report was distributed as detailed below. All comments received have been reflected in the report.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

9.1 Members are requested to note the update in respect of the three 21st Century Schools (Band A) schemes.

10. REASON FOR THE RECOMMENDATION

10.1 To apprise Members of developments in respect of the three schemes.

11. STATUTORY POWER

11.1 School Organisation Code 2013 (Welsh Government)
School Standards & Organisation (Wales) Act 2013.

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Background Papers:
Strategic Outline Programmes 2010 and 2011
3 schemes business cases and associated correspondence.