



## CABINET - 4TH FEBRUARY 2015

**SUBJECT: 17<sup>TH</sup> EDITION ELECTRICAL WORKS IN SCHOOLS**

**REPORT BY: ACTING DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

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### 1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To apprise Members on developments in respect of the 17<sup>th</sup> edition electrical works in schools.

### 2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 The report gives a background to developments since the last inspection in 2011 and recommends a way forward for the next 2 years.

### 3. LINKS TO STRATEGY

- 3.1 The report links directly to the Education for Life, sustainability, regeneration and equality strategies.
- 3.2 Our long-term vision for Caerphilly is for sustainable communities. To realise this, we have identified Safer Caerphilly as one of five key outcomes.

### 4. THE REPORT

- 4.1 In the period 1996 to 2008 there was no specific H&S allocation within the annual Education (including schools) capital programme.
- 4.2 In recent years, the Health & Safety portion of the annual Education (including schools) capital programme has amounted to the following :

Financial Year	Amount
	£000
2008/09	500
2009/10	450
2010/11	375
2011/12	375
2012/13	300
2013/14	300
2014/15	300

4.3 This budget has typically covered the following responsibilities:

- Legionella (supported by Corporate H&S Budget)
- DDA/accessibility (often in partnership with Disability Access officer)
- Traffic Management (often in partnership with Engineering)
- Resurfacing (often in partnership with Risk Management)
- Toilet upgrades (often in partnership with Disability Access officer)
- Asbestos (supported by Corporate H&S Budget)
- Electrical (supported by Corporate H&S Budget).

#### **Statutory Testing (Electrical)**

- 4.4 The 2008/09, H&S (Education capital) budget provided a sum of 120k to complete 16<sup>th</sup> edition electrical works (Cabinet reports of 30/09/2008 and 09/12/2008 refer).
- 4.5 Building Consultancy undertake building related statutory testing works on behalf of the schools via SLA arrangements. These include periodic testing of electrical circuits (minimum 5 yearly). Compliance with statutory maintenance has been monitored by H&S since 2012, using the RAMIS system.
- 4.6 In 2011, statutory electrical inspections of schools were undertaken in line with the Institution of Electrical Engineers (IEE) Regulations (BS7671) – 17<sup>th</sup> Edition. These inspections were completed by specialist contractor AJ Crews. The next round is due in 2016. Schools were liable for the costs of the statutory maintenance inspections.
- 4.7 On 26 September 2011, Building Consultancy wrote to all schools outlining the electrical testing faults, analysed by individual schools. These faults should have been funded by schools, in line with school delegated responsibilities.
- 4.8 It became evident that schools were generally not pursuing the remedial works and a number complained about the high costs involved and short timescales for funding. It became evident an alternative financial arrangement was necessary.
- 4.9 A meeting of the School Budget Forum took place on 25 April 2012 and agreement was reached to propose a cost split of 75% (LA) and 25% (School) for undertaking fault rectification works.
- 4.10 In addition to the faults, there was a need to undertake rewiring at 28 schools at an estimated cost of £3m. A J Crews advised on a prioritised list of schools for rewiring, which is attached as Appendix 1.
- 4.11 Financial provision was set aside in 2012/13 and 2013/14 by Education Capital and Corporate Health & Safety to complete the vast majority of the faults, which would then allow rewiring works to commence. This was confirmed at Scrutiny on 9 April 2013.
- 4.12 The Council commissioned independent technical specialists (ARUP) to produce a report re Cwmcam High School (CHS) in August/September 2013 which identified serious and urgent problems which had ramifications for other schools across the Council.
- 4.13 For 2014/15, an amount of 200k was initially proposed to be earmarked from the asset management portion of the Education capital programme (Scrutiny 09/04/2013) to progress priorities for rewiring. A further sum of 100k has been allocated from contingent sums towards electrical works.
- 4.14 The 300k H&S allocation for 2014/15 is proposed for asbestos works (together with 500k budget from Corporate H&S) which includes asbestos remedial works to complete electrical priority works which were outstanding in a small number of schools due to the presence of licenced asbestos products.

- 4.15 In view of the ARUP report re Cwmcarn High, the Acting Deputy Chief Executive recommended to trial a further inspection on a secondary school (Lewis Girls). The resulting report for Lewis Girls raised serious issues requiring urgent attention. Lorne Stewart were employed as a matter of urgency to undertake testing of all circuitry and priority 1 fault rectification works at the school from 23 June 2014.
- 4.16 Further testing and fault rectification, on the same basis as Lewis Girls, were undertaken during the summer holiday period at Blackwood, Newbridge and St. Cenydd and in the autumn term at Oakdale & Pontllanfraith. Lorne Stewart also completed similar works at Deri Primary (1<sup>st</sup> priority Primary school on priority list for rewires) in December 2014.
- 4.17 The remaining schools are planned for re-testing and fault rectification works in accordance with details in Appendix 1. Appendix 2 outlines the proposed process to complete these works, together with subsequent rewiring.
- 4.18 Work on lots 1-5 is due to commence late January 2015 and are anticipated to be completed by 31 March 2015. These works are being undertaken by 3 contractors chosen via the Welsh purchasing Consortium Framework (cyclical maintenance contracts electrical framework (R353a)), following a competitive tendering process. The remaining Primary schools in Appendix 1 are expected to be undertaken by the end of the summer term 2015.
- 4.19 It is anticipated that the testing and rectification of faults (Phases 1 + 2) will result in updated certification, which will require rewiring to be completed at these schools over the next 5 years.
- 4.20 It is planned to tender these rewiring works, following a detailed specification (Phase 3), and arrange the rewiring (Phase 4) to be undertaken on a prioritised basis.
- 4.21 Whilst the re-testing programme has been successful to date and the schools certified safe, a number of concerns have been identified, mainly in relation to recent electrical works/practices. As a consequence, CCBC has commissioned the NICEIC, which is the UK's leading voluntary regulatory body for the electrical contracting industry, to inspect the work of contractors re Phase 1/2 from January 2015. It is anticipated that this arrangement will continue for future re-testing and fault rectification works commissioned by the local Authority.
- 4.22 In undertaking the electrical re-testing works in 2014, it has become evident that a significant amount of building works are being undertaken in schools affecting electrical installations/supplies. Such works are, on occasions, having an adverse impact upon the safety of the installation.
- 4.23 These issues were discussed at the Director's meeting with Headteachers on 26 November 2014, when it was agreed to establish a working group comprising 3 Primary and 3 Secondary headteachers, to consider the above matters, including future funding of statutory maintenance and future works involving the fabric of school buildings.

## **5. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 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.

## **6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 The costs of the re-testing and rectification works are being funded from the 300k budget set aside in the Education Capital Budget for 2014/15.

- 6.2 It is proposed to allocate a further £1.7m towards rewiring works in 2015/16 and 2016/17, subject to confirmation of the Education Capital Programme, as follows:

<b>Description</b>	<b>2015/16 £'000</b>	<b>2016/17 £'000</b>
Asset Management (of 600k p.a. total)	300	300
Health & Safety (full allocation)	300	300
School Security & Boiler Replacement (250k in each of 2 years from 320k p.a. total)	250	250

- 6.3 This statutory testing process has emphasised the need to agree how to fund statutory testing in schools in future. It is anticipated that a re-testing programme should commence in the autumn term 2015 to be completed by summer 2016, in line with the 2011 process.
- 6.4 At this stage it is anticipated that the 100% re-testing and rectification of Priority 1 faults will cost in the region of 600k every 5 years, based on average of 20k per Secondary and 4k per Primary.
- 6.5 An amount of circa £2.4m p.a. is delegated to schools for building maintenance. The local authority would offer to organise and fund these statutory testing (electrical) works if the schools contribute circa 5% (Primary and Secondary) p.a. In the event that schools do not wish to participate in this arrangement then they would be expected to organise the statutory testing of electrical works at least every 5 years and undertake rectification of faults, as well as organise and pay for independent checking by a regulatory body such as the NICEIC.

## **7. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1 No direct personnel implications.

## **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 developments since the last electrical inspections in 2011 and to agree the way forward for the next 2 financial years, as follows:
- Re-testing and fault rectification works in accordance with Appendix 1
  - The electrical works process, as set out in Appendix 2
  - Consultation on the proposed arrangements for future testing, as proposed in the report.

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

- 10.1 To apprise Members of developments in relation to 17<sup>th</sup> edition electrical works in schools.
- 10.2 To ensure satisfactory electrical certification is achieved for all CCBC schools.

## **11. STATUTORY POWER**

- 11.1 Local Government Act 1972.  
IEE British Standard BS7671 Regulations.

Author: Bleddyn Hopkins, Assistant Director 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools  
E-mail: [hopkib@caerphilly.gov.uk](mailto:hopkib@caerphilly.gov.uk)

Consultees: Chris Burns, Chief Executive  
Sandra Aspinall, Acting Deputy Chief Executive  
Nicole Scammell, Acting Director of Corporate Services & S151 Officer  
Dave Street, Corporate Director, Social Services  
Tony Maher, Head of Planning & Strategy  
Keri Cole, Manager, Learning Education & Inclusion  
Councillor Rhianon Passmore, Cabinet Member Education & Lifelong Learning  
Gail Williams, Acting Head of Legal Services/Monitoring Officer  
Angharad Price, Solicitor/Deputy Monitoring Officer  
Gareth Hardacre, Head of People Management and Development  
Jane Southcombe, Financial Services Manager  
Mark Williams, Manager, Building Consultancy Services  
Donna Jones, Health & Safety Manager  
David A Thomas, Senior Policy Officer (Equalities and Welsh Language)  
Huw John, Lead Surveyor  
Alan Williams, CDM Co-ordinator, Engineering

Background Papers:

Scrutiny report 9 April 2013  
ARUP report (Cwmcarn High School) 2013  
ARUP report (Lewis Girls) 2014

Appendices:

Appendix 1: A J Crews list of schools for rewiring in priority order.  
Appendix 2: Electrical Works in Schools: Process