



EDUCATION FOR LIFE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 24TH FEBRUARY 2015

SUBJECT: INTERIM REPORT - ASBESTOS IN SCHOOLS REMOVAL PROGRAMME

REPORT BY: ACTING DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 This is an interim report to update Scrutiny members of the progress of asbestos removal in occupied areas of all Caerphilly owned schools, providing an update on planned works and examples of the improvements made.

2. LINKS TO STRATEGY

- 2.1 The Local Authority is responsible for the strategic management of asbestos in Local Authority owned schools, as duty holder in line with its statutory duties under current legislation.

3. SUMMARY

- 3.1 The Authority is committed to reducing the risk to health from asbestos products within its school buildings and in July 2014 Cabinet approved the funding of a project to remove all amosite asbestos containing products from occupied areas of school buildings. This decision committed £800,000 of H&S budgets over two budget years for removal and reinstatement work across 37 schools.
- 3.2 The works completed to date have resulted in asbestos removal work at 11 schools, of which 10 were Category 2 schools and 1 category 3 School. This is based on the categorisation table below.

Risk Rating	Definition
Category 1	Damaged Amosite Containing Materials in occupied areas of the school buildings.
Category 2	Un-Damaged Amosite Containing Materials in occupied areas at low level, which is vulnerable to impact damage from normal school activities, such as asbestos wall panels. Impact of chairs or tables being knocked against the wall panel.
Category 3	Un-Damaged Amosite Containing Materials in occupied areas of the school building which is not in a location vulnerable to impact damage from normal school activities. Asbestos fibres can be released due to deterioration of the product over time or can be disturbed by maintenance activities, such as changing light bulbs in light fittings attached to asbestos ceiling tiles.
Category 4	No Amosite Containing Materials in Occupied Areas.
Category 5	Asbestos Free Building.

4. BACKGROUND

- 4.1 Many of our school buildings were built at a time when asbestos was commonly used in construction materials and most still have some asbestos containing products within the fabric of the building. Monitoring of asbestos containing materials within buildings is a legal requirement to prevent exposure to fibres, however accidental damage and disturbances can occur as well as general deterioration of the product over time. Asbestos containing materials are normally only removed from buildings when they are damaged, when improvement works require their removal or when the building is demolished. However the risk of accidental damage remains and the monitoring, maintenance and cost burden on schools is a growing concern. A detailed report was provided to Cabinet in July 2014, advising of the history of asbestos management arrangements within the Authority and the recommendation to further improve asbestos management in schools by removing amosite asbestos products in occupied areas of school buildings. Cabinet Members provided their support and approved the proposed project which commenced in August 2014.

5. REPORT

- 5.1 Table 1 provides details of projects where asbestos removal works have been completed and schools re-categorised.

Table 1

Premises	Category Rating before	Category rating after all works	Position at each school prior to project commencing	Recommendations to be completed by December 2016	Completed / When
Bedwas Juniors	2	4	AIB wall panel behind heater in one classroom	Remove AIB wall panels.	Completed on: 04/08/2014
Cefn Fforest Primary (Phase 1)	2	4	Lagging debris within Boiler House	Environmental clean of Boiler House	Completed on: 04/10/2014
Fleur De Lys Primary (Phase 1) Variation	2	4	Lagging to pipe in store room and external pipework	Remove pipe lagging	Completed on: 30/07/2014
Fleur De Lys Primary (Phase 2) Variation	2	4	Lagging debris within Boiler House	Environmental clean of Boiler House	Completed on: 27/10/14
Fochriw Primary	2	4	Lagging debris within two Boiler Houses	Environmental clean of two Boiler Houses.	Completed on: 22/09/2014
Hendre Infants (Phase 1)	2	4	Lagging Debris to two Boiler Houses	Environmental clean of two Boiler Houses.	Completed on: 27/08/2014
Hendredenny Primary (Phase 1) Variation	2	4	AIB cladding around metal columns throughout buildings.	Removal of AIB cladding.	Completed on: 25/10/2014
St Cenydd Comprehensive (Phase 1)	2	4	AIB wall panels to occupied areas.	Remove AIB wall panels.	Completed on: 20/07/2014
St Martins Comprehensive (Phase 1) Variation	2	4	AIB debris within Boiler House	Remove AIB debris	Completed on: 01/08/2014

St Martins Comprehensive (Library)	2	4	Asbestos to columns & roof lights and above windows	Remove AIB	Substantially complete, re-instatement in progress
Ystrad Mynach Primary	2	4	Lagging debris within Boiler House	Environmental clean of Boiler House.	Completed on: 25/07/2014
Llancaeath Juniors	3	4	AIB ceilings to Kitchen toilet	Remove AIB ceilings.	Completed on:
Deri Primary	4	4	Gasket debris to floor of Boiler House	Environmental Clean of Boiler House	Completed on: 08/08/2014

5.2 Table 2 provides details of projects which are currently in the planning/commissioning stage.

Table 2

Premises	Category Rating	Position at each School prior to project commencing	Recommendations to be completed by December 2016	Current Position of AIS project in School
Cefn Fforest Primary (Phase 2)	2	AIB ceiling tiles in Kitchen areas	Removal of AIB ceilings.	In design
Graig Y Rhacca Primary Kitchen	3	AIB ceiling tiles in Kitchen areas	Removal of AIB ceilings.	Summer 2015
Graig Y Rhacca Primary (Phase 1)	2	AIB wall panels and AIB ceilings in several occupied areas	Remove AIB wall panels & AIB ceilings.	13 Feb 2015
Libanus Primary Variation	2	Lagging dust/debris to floor of Boiler House	Environmental clean of Boiler House	14 Feb 2015
Pontllanfraith Comprehensive	2	AIB wall panels and AIB ceiling tiles to several areas	Overboard AIB wall panels.	In design

5.3 Table 3 provides the details of schools where work is still to be completed by December 2016.

Table 3

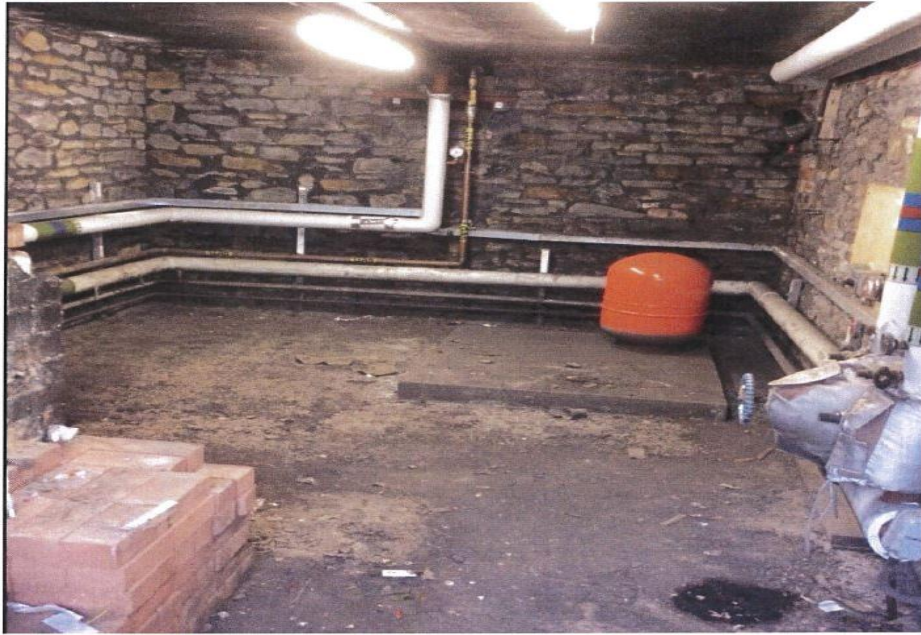
Premises	Category Rating	Position at each School prior to project commencing	Recommendations to be completed by December 2016
Bedwas Infants	2	AIB wall panels in several Classrooms	Remove AIB wall panels.
Blackwood Comprehensive	2	AIB ceilings and skylights to several areas. Lagging debris within Boiler House	Environmental clean of Boiler House, removal of AIB ceilings and skylights.
Coed Y Brain Primary	2	AIB wall panel within WC and store area	Remove AIB wall panels.
Graig Y Rhacca Primary	2	AIB wall panels and AIB ceilings in several occupied areas	Remove AIB wall panels & AIB ceilings.
Hendre Infants (Phase 2)	2	AIB ceilings in toilet areas	Remove AIB ceilings.
Heolddu Comprehensive	2	AIB boxing/cladding around metal columns throughout buildings	Overboard AIB boxing/cladding.
Lewis Girls School	2	AIB wall panels in several Classrooms	Overboard/remove where possible AIB wall panels.
Newbridge School	2	AIB wall panels above several doors, AIB ceiling tiles to several areas	Remove AIB wall panels and ceilings.

Oakdale Comprehensive	2	AIB wall panels and AIB ceiling tiles to several areas	Overboard AIB wall panels.
Pantside Primary	2	One AIB wall panel to circulation area	Remove AIB wall panel.
Plasyfelin Primary	2	AIB ceilings to Kitchen areas. AIB debris to Tank Room	Remove of AIB ceiling and localised clean of Tank Room.
Risca Community Comprehensive	2	AIB wall panels above several doors	Remove AIB wall panels.
St Cenydd Comprehensive (Phase 2)	2	AIB wall panels to occupied areas	Remove AIB wall panels.
St Martins Comprehensive (Phase 2)	2	AIB boxing /cladding around metal columns throughout buildings. AIB ceiling tiles to several locations	Overboard AIB boxing/cladding and removal of AIB ceilings.
Tir Y Berth Primary	2	Lagging debris within Boiler House	Environmental clean of Boiler House.
Trinant Primary	2	Lagging to pipework in Kitchen	Remove lagging.
Tyn Y Wern Primary	2	Lagging to pipework in circulation area	Remove lagging.
Ynysddu Primary	2	Lagging debris within Boiler House	Environmental clean of Boiler House.
Ysgol Gymraeg Cwm Derwen	2	Lagging to pipework in dining room. AIB ceiling in Boiler House	Remove lagging and remove AIB ceiling.
Abercarn Primary	3	AIB ceiling in one Classroom	Remove AIB ceilings.
Abertysswg Primary	3	AIB heater plinth in Classroom	Remove AIB heater plinth.
Bedwas High School	3	AIB ceiling tiles to several occupied areas	Remove AIB ceilings.
Blackwood Primary	3	Encapsulated AIB ceiling panels to Boiler House	Encapsulate AIB panels
Bryn Primary	3	AIB to underside of shelf in circulation area	Remove AIB shelf.
Crumlin High Level Primary	3	AIB ceiling tiles in Kitchen areas	Remove AIB ceilings.
Cwmaber Infants	3	AIB skylights in Nursery Classroom.	Remove AIB skylights.
Cwmcarn Primary	3	AIB ceilings to Kitchen areas	Remove AIB ceilings.
Gilfach Fargoed Primary	3	AIB ceiling panels in Boiler House	Remove/Encapsulate AIB ceiling panels.
Hendredenny Primary (Phase 2)	3	AIB vent shafts to three Store Rooms	Remove AIB vent shafts.
St Cenydd Comprehensive (Phase 3)	3	AIB ceiling tiles	Remove AIB ceilings.
Ty Isaf Infants	3	Overboarded AIB wall panels to several areas	Remove of wall panels
Ty Sign Primary	3	Overboarded AIB wall panels to several classrooms	Remove of wall panels

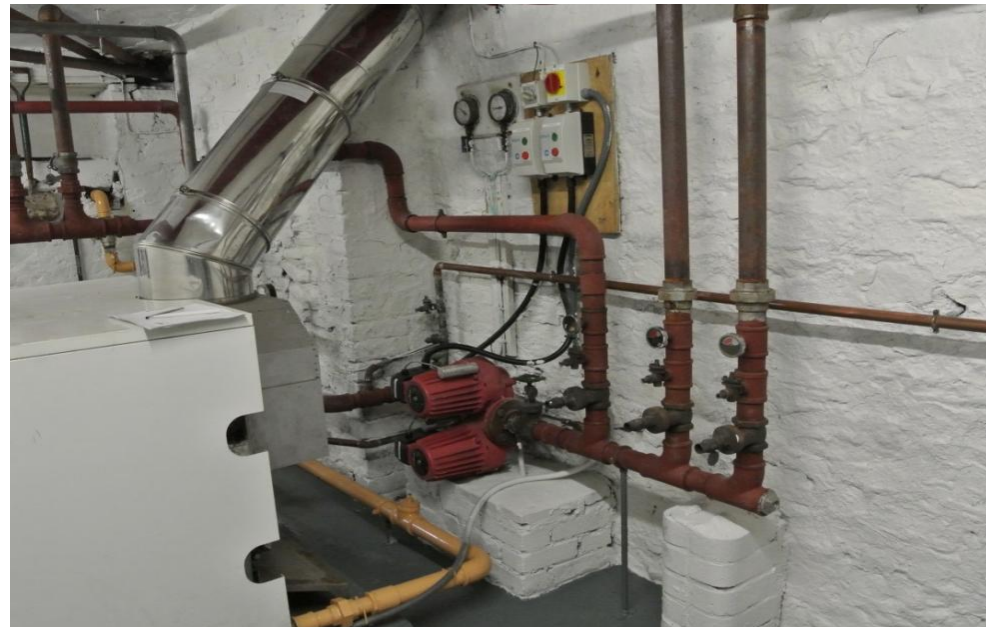
5.4 Asbestos removal and reinstatement projects eliminate the risk from asbestos, however they also improve the building condition and reduce ongoing maintenance costs. In the case of affected school boiler rooms, asbestos removal work will also result in lifting of any prohibitions or restrictions placed on access to the boiler rooms, which would be an issue when maintenance/inspection is required. The ongoing management of school buildings is much less onerous and costly when amosite containing products have been removed.

5.5 The following photographs provide a visual account of areas of schools where work has already been completed; they show the condition of premises before and after the asbestos removal works.

Before



After



Before



After



Before



After



6. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

6.1 There are no Equalities implications.

7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

7.1 It is estimated that the cost of the priority works including reinstatement works will be in the region of £800,000.

7.2 The cost of the priority works will be funded from unallocated Corporate Health and Safety reserve budgets, £500,000 and Education Capital Budgets allocated for health and safety schemes, £300K over two budget years 14/15 and 15/16.

8. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

8.1 There are no personnel implications.

9. CONSULTATION

9.1 Consultations have been undertaken and comments received are reflected in the report.

10. RECOMMENDATIONS

10.1 Scrutiny members are asked to note the contents of the report.

11. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

11.1 To further protect pupils, employees, contractors and visitors from the risk of exposure to asbestos in Caerphilly owned school buildings.

12. STATUTORY POWERS

12.1 School Standards and Framework Act 1998
Local Government Act 1972

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