

EDUCATION AND YOUTH OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Date of Meeting	Thursday, 17th November 2016
Report Subject	School Modernisation Update
Cabinet Member	Cabinet Member for Education and Youth
Report Author	Chief Officer (Education and Youth)
Type of Report	Strategic

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

To inform Education and Youth Overview & Scrutiny Committee of progress of the School Modernisation Programme.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1	Education and Youth Overview & Scrutiny Committee is requested to note progress of the school Modernisation Programme.
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REPORT DETAILS

1.00	BACKGROUND AND CONSIDERATIONS
1.01	<p><u>21st Century Schools – Band A</u></p> <p>The Council has an agreed funding package with Welsh Government (WG) for its 21st Century Schools Band A programme of £64.2m. This is funded on a 50/50 basis between WG and the Council.</p>
1.02	<p>The construction projects at both Holywell Learning Campus (phase 1) and Deeside 6th have been delivered on time and within budget and they equate to £45.636 million of the funding £64.2 million funding leaving the balance of £18.564 million available to progress other projects agreed through the WG business case process.</p> <p>Since the last Education and Youth Overview and Scrutiny Committee, the former Holywell High School building has now been demolished. Approximately 90% of materials are being recycled. The project remains on time and within budget.</p>
1.03	<p>18th October 2016 Cabinet approved the development of the school capital project at Connah's Quay High School to design development, tender and Full Business Case submission to the Welsh Government, in line with programme criteria.</p>
1.04	<p>At the same meeting, Cabinet approved the capital project at Penyffordd to design development, tender and Full Business Case submission to the Welsh Government, in line with programme criteria.</p>
1.05	<p>The balance of the funding package will be used on Queensferry Campus, namely potential demolition or making secure/safe John Summers High school and improvement works to support the modernisation of inclusion provision in the area. Proposals to improve Queensferry CP Primary School will be considered in the following band of the 21st Century schools programme.</p>
1.06	<p><u>School Modernisation</u></p> <p>On 18th October 2016, Cabinet agreed to a request to allow more time for the Governors and Diocesan Authority to work through strategic options for collaboration and sustainability of the Diocesan school estate. (See Cabinet report – Appendix 1)</p>
1.07	<p>Regular meetings relating to John Summers High school (JSHS) transition plan continue to take place with officers, JSHS and partnering schools. At the time of writing the cohort of pupils at JSHS is 190, this is predicted to reduce to 127 when year 11 leave the school for their exams.</p> <p>The Council is confident the transition plans are sufficiently robust to support learners through transition at that point.</p>

1.08	Separate reports will be presented to Cabinet and Overview and Scrutiny at the appropriate stage, regarding other previously commissioned informal reviews.
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2.00	RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS
2.01	There are sufficient staff resource in which to implement the revised programme within programme constraints and timelines.

3.00	CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED / CARRIED OUT
3.01	Consultations have been carried out, in accordance with the School Organisation Code and The Federation of Maintained schools (Wales) Regulations 2014.

4.00	RISK MANAGEMENT
4.01	A Programme Board is set up to oversee the implementation business plans and manage risks in close detail. High level risks will be reported to Programme Board, operational risks will be managed by the project team in accordance with agreed tolerances.

5.00	APPENDICES
5.01	Appendix 1 – Cabinet Report, Nercwys VA

6.00	LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS
6.01	None. Contact Officer: Damian Hughes Senior Manager, School Planning and Provision Telephone: 01352 704135 E-mail: Damian.hughes@flintshire.gov.uk

7.00	GLOSSARY OF TERMS
7.01	(1) School Organisation Code – The new School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 makes Local Authorities responsible (rather than the Welsh Ministers prior to October 2013) for the determination of most statutory school organisation proposals that receive objections. Such

provisions apply to any proposals published on or after 1st October 2013 that consider the establishment, discontinuance or otherwise significantly alter schools.

The Council does this in line with the Welsh Government's statutory School Organisation Code

<http://wales.gov.uk/docs/dcells/publications/130719-school-organisation-codes-en.pdf>

(2) Federation and Collaboration - The federation of schools is a legal process which enables schools to work together through a formal structured process by sharing a governing body that will make decisions in the best interest of all the schools, staff and pupils in that federation.

The term federation is often used to describe many forms of collaboration between schools. The Statutory process of Federation is often referred to as "Hard Federation" An informal, non-statutory arrangement between schools is often called "soft federation" or collaboration, where schools have made a commitment to work together through some form of joint governance.

<http://gov.wales/docs/dcells/publications/140522-guidance-on-federation-of-schools-en.pdf>

(3) Welsh Government Business Case Process.

In line with National Policy, for capital projects in excess of £5 million there is a requirement that they have to be approved under the four stage WG business case process, as follows:

- Strategic Outline Programme – (SOP)
- Strategic Outline Case – (SOC)
- Outline Business Case – (OBC)
- Full Business Case – (FBC)

Capital funding is released by WG at the approval of FBC.