

EDUCATION & YOUTH OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Date of Meeting	Thursday, 5 th October 2017
Report Subject	School Organisation
Cabinet Member	Cabinet Member for Education
Report Author	Interim Chief Officer (Education and Youth)
Type of Report	Operational

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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

RECOMMENDATIONS

1	The Education and Youth Overview and Scrutiny Committee is requested to note progress of the school Modernisation Programme.
---	--

REPORT DETAILS

1.00	BACKGROUND AND CONSIDERATIONS
1.01	The funding envelope for the Welsh Government's (WG) Band A 21 st Century Programme remains as £64.2m, with the timeline between 2013/14 and 2018/19. The programme includes completed projects at Holywell Learning Campus and Deeside 6 th equated to circa £45,636,000 of the funding envelope.
1.02	The WG monitoring returns are up to date, expenditure incurred has met grant profile, and therefore the Council have been able to draw down WG grant as planned.
1.03	In October 2016, the Cabinet agreed that the balance of the funding, circa £18.564 million, to be spent on projects at Connah's Quay High School and Penyffordd.
1.04	<u>Connah's Quay High School</u> The capital improvement project at Connah's Quay High School also contractually encompasses works to demolish parts of the former John Summers High School building which are now redundant following Ministerial determination to close the school from 31 st August 2017.
1.05	Kier Construction - Northern were appointed through the North Wales Schools and Public Buildings (NWSPB) Construction Framework as the preferred contractor on a two stage design and build contract basis.
1.06	To facilitate construction of the new D&T Block and associated works, Kier Construction have been engaged (in advance of the main contract) to complete enabling works at Connah's Quay High School through a JCT Minor works contract. The enabling works commenced during the summer recess and will be complete by 15 th December 2017.
1.07	The overall project cost is inclusive of preliminaries, provisional sums and professional fees and includes the following works: <u>Connah's Quay High School</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Enabling Works• New Design & Technology (D&T) block (including Fixtures Furniture & Equipment, demolition of existing D&T Block)• New Hall and Drama Theatre• Dining Room extension• External works at the rear of new build and courtyard between the new build and existing• Attenuation pond, fencing, coach parking and drop off improvements

	<p><u>John Summers High School</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demolition of parts of the former John Summers High School. • Making good the site following demolition
1.08	In line with procurement procedures Cabinet will receive a report 24 th October 2017 asking for approval to proceed to legally contract with Kier Construction to enable commencement for the construction project.
1.09	Subject to approval a contract will be instigated and we hope that construction will start prior to the end of the enabling works. The contract period will be around 51 weeks.
1.10	The proposed scheme at Penyffordd will amalgamate the current split-site arrangement, bringing all primary provision on one site.
1.11	The Project has WG approval for at both Strategic Outline Programme (SOP), Strategic Outline Case (SOC) and Outline Business Case (OBC) stages of the WG business case process.
1.12	The project has been through a Planning Pre-Application and a drop in evening was held in the community so that interested parties could express their views. The design was also submitted to the Design Commission for Wales.
1.13	<p>Whilst there was clearly support for a new school, with the majority of people wishing to ensure that new school provision in the area is secured.</p> <p>There was, however, clear and decisive views from both the Community Council and a number of stakeholders, in relation to the materiality, the flat roof, traffic concerns and locality (on the agreed Abbots lane site) in relation to the adjacency of the proposed school to their properties.</p> <p>The materiality and roof scape concerns were also shared by the Design Commission of Wales.</p>
1.14	<p>The Council and Designers have relooked at the issues highlighted through the Planning Pre-Application process and subsequently held further meetings with the School Governors and Community Council. At these meetings the Council and designers presented rationale for design evolution and proposed changes to the materiality and roof scape. Additionally it was confirmed that a Traffic Impact Assessment (TIA) would be instigated rather than a Traffic Survey (which is a planning requirement).</p> <p>The school with its community are already working on school travel plans and are also investigating the possibility of adopting an un-official one way system for parents in advance of the proposed build for the Abbots Road site. The commissioned TIA report will be available shortly, any recommendations will be considered as part of the planning process.</p>

	The proposed school building is sited appropriately and complies with Planning Guidance.
1.15	<p>The proposed scheme gained universal support from the Governors and Community Council at the meeting dated 7th September 2017.</p> <p>The scheme will now proceed to the formal planning process, stakeholders will have a further opportunity to express their views through the formal planning process.</p>
1.16	Formal planning approval and cost certainty are required to allow a submission of the Full Business Case (FBC) to WG for the scheme. If approved, capital is released to allow the project to continue to construction. Subject to the above, we hope that we are able to submit the FBC to WG prior to Christmas 2017 with a site start in early 2018.
1.17	<p><u>Federations & School Organisation Overview</u></p> <p>An update to Federation and school Organisation issues both nationally and locally are provided in the recent Cabinet report attached. Appendix 1</p>

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	Connah's Quay High School – Planning Application Approval Penyffordd – Planning application – Pre-Application stage complete, Full Planning Application to follow.

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 26 th September 2017 with associated documents.

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

7.00	GLOSSARY OF TERMS
7.01	<p>North Wales schools and Public Buildings (NWSPB) Construction Framework - This framework is a partnership between the six North Wales Authorities with Denbighshire County Council acting as the lead Authority. The framework provides a streamlined, cost-effective and collaborative mechanism to secure contractors for construction projects in schools and other public buildings across North Wales.</p>