

EDUCATION & YOUTH OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Date of Meeting	Thursday 19 th March 2020
Report Subject	School Modernisation
Cabinet Member	Leader of the Council & Cabinet Member for Education
Report Author	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	That Education and Youth Overview and Scrutiny Committee note the contents of the report and progress of the School Modernisation Programme.
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REPORT DETAILS

1.00	BACKGROUND AND CONSIDERATIONS
1.01	<p><u>21st Century Programme (Band A)</u></p> <p>The remaining projects in this band were Connah's Quay High School (phase 1) and Penyffordd County Primary School. These were completed on time and within budget and effectively brought to a close the Council's Band A schools investment programme.</p>
1.02	<p><u>Brynford and Lixwm Area Review</u></p> <p>In June 2018, Cabinet determined not to proceed with the proposed statutory amalgamation of the two schools but instructed both schools to find sustainable long term options to ensure sustainability.</p>
1.03	<p><u>Ysgol Brynford</u></p> <p>At this meeting Cabinet confirmed its intention to support capital investment in Brynford CP to address major accommodation issues which would support a modest growth in pupil numbers for longer term sustainability. The original options appraisal identified approximately £1.3m investment need.</p>
1.04	<p>Officers linked with Social Services to bid for £500k through the WG Childcare Capital funding Grant to part-fund an investment project at the school. This has been successful and the funding for the balance of the improvement has been agreed through the Council's capital programme. The WG Childcare Grant is 100% WG funded and has specific criteria related to the provision of childcare/wrap around care. Brynford CP already has some before/after-school provision and being able to extend it to full wrap-around care for early years' pupils would enhance the school's offer in the local community and attract more families and also assists with long term sustainability of school pupil numbers.</p>
1.05	<p>The capital project at Ysgol Brynford is currently on track for construction and completion during 2020/2021 financial year.</p>
1.06	<p><u>Lixwm CP</u></p> <p>Since Cabinet's decision, the Governing Body of Lixwm CP school and education officers from the Anglican Diocese of the Church in Wales have been in proactive discussions to strengthen the existing relationship between the school and the Anglican Church, with a long term ambition to pursue a federation with a local school of the same designation.</p>
1.07	<p>However, as school designation changes are required to follow the legal framework of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2018, it is not possible to simply change the categorisation of Lixwm CP school without working through the statutory process. Additionally, under Federation of Maintained Schools (Wales) Regulations 2014 schools with differing designations are unable to federate.</p>

1.08	Therefore formal consultation was progressed and the consultation period opened on 26 September 2019 and closed on 11 November 2019.
1.09	In December 2019, Cabinet considered the responses received during the consultation period and agreed to continue to the objection period for the proposal to change the designation of Lixwm CP school.
1.10	The formal objection period opened on 14 January 2020 and closed on 14 February 2020, no objections were received during this period.
1.11	Cabinet will consider the proposal to change in designation, in their March meeting and should it be approved, the change of designation would come into effect from 1st September 2020.
1.12	As from the 1 st September 2020, a formal federation consultation between Lixwm and Ysgol Esgob, Caerwys can then be progressed through the Federation of Maintained Schools (Wales) Regulations 2014.
1.13	<u>Nercwys VA</u> Consultation on a federal arrangement for Nercwys VA and Nannerch VC was undertaken and agreed. The Nantllys Federation was officially formed 29 April 2019.
1.14	<u>WG - Infants Class Size Grant</u> WG have approved the £1.3m grant for Ysgol Glan Aber, Bagillt under this funding scheme. This allowed a larger £2.7m project to proceed as £997K had been approved through the Council's capital programme. This project is currently in construction stage with anticipated completion by March 2020.
1.15	<u>Council Funded Programme</u> Cabinet have approved £997k for Ysgol Glan Aber, Bagillt (as above) and £4.7m for Ysgol Castell Alun, Hope. Ysgol Castel Alun, Hope also has S106 contributions which have been added to the project together with a WG Repairs & Maintenance Grant giving an investment package of £7.475m. The project is in design development with construction anticipated to start during summer 2020.
1.16	<u>WG – Welsh Medium Grant</u> In addition to the 21 st Century school investment programme, WG made £30m Welsh Medium (WM) capital grant available across Wales, funded at a 100% intervention rate. The grant funding is aimed specifically at capital projects that will demonstrably contribute to meeting the Welsh Government's aim of one million Welsh speakers by 2050.

1.17	<p>The Council was initially successful in gaining a £3m grant through the WG Welsh Medium Grant for Ysgol Glanrafon, Mold which was the only eligible school under the grant criteria. This has released £750k highlighted for the Mold Area Welsh Medium review to be re-distributed to Ysgol Croes Atti, Shotton. However detailed feasibility estimates which have subsequently been undertaken have concluded that additional funding would be required to deliver the proposed scheme in Mold. Therefore, a supplementary business case for the additional funding was submitted to WG and has subsequently been approved. The new funding figure for investment in the Ysgol Glanrafon site is £3.9m.</p>
1.18	<p>As part of the agreement to fund the project in Ysgol Glanrafon, Welsh Government directed the Council to recycle the funding originally earmarked for the Mold area Welsh Medium review to make much needed improvements at Ysgol Glannau Dydfdrwy, (Ysgol Croes Atti) Shotton.</p> <p>In addition, officers have successfully linked with Social Services and WG to secure funding of £375k through the WG Childcare Capital Funding Grant which will part fund a larger investment project on the Shotton Site to secure the Welsh medium playgroup, aid transition and provide a total investment in the site of £1,125m. This Capital project is due to commence in 2020/2021.</p>
1.19	<p>Investment in a replacement school for Ysgol Croes Atti, Flint (included within the Council's SOP) and the additional investment in Ysgol Glannau Dydfdrwy supports the Council's Welsh Education Strategic Plan (WESP).</p>
1.20	<p><u>21st Century schools Band B</u></p> <p>The total Band B funding envelope request by the Council as outlined in the Strategic Outline Programme (SOP) submission to WG was £85,420,000. The SOP included an expression of interest in one project Mutual investment Model (MIM)</p> <p>Appendix 1 – MIM information paper</p>
1.21	<p>WG approved the Council's SOP and the funding envelope in principle. However, the individual projects contained within the SOP are subject to both Council and WG approval through their business case process before capital is released.</p>
1.22	<p>In November 2018 WG reviewed the intervention rates for the onward programme and the new intervention rates are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capital – Schools : 65% WG / 35% LA • Capital – PRU / ALN Schools : 75% WG / 25% LA • MIM – 81% WG / 19% LA (through revenue budgets of both organisations).
1.23	<p>The Council's Band B Programme has already started. The phase 2 project at Connah's Quay High School has been completed and the</p>

	<p>Queensferry Campus programme (Plas Derwen PPRU and Queensferry CP) is in design development stage.</p> <p>Cabinet has already approved the projects at Ysgol Croes Atti Welsh Medium (Shotton site) and the second at Ysgol Brynfordd, The associated borrowing costs of both projects have been reflected in the Council's current Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS).</p>
1.24	<p>In November 2019, Cabinet were asked to consider financial changes to the programme. Cabinet provided a mandate for officers to approach Welsh Government with a view to increase the financial envelope for the programme from £85m to £103m.</p>
1.25	<p>Initial discussions have taken place with WG, the national picture is that other LA's are in the same position. Welsh Governments position is they cannot commit to individual request currently but wish to remain flexible with LA's as they work through their individual programmes. Therefore, current advice is to continue dialogue as the Council progresses through its investment programme. Cabinet will receive further updates at the appropriate time.</p> <p>The link to this report and associated paperwork is included in the para 6.01.</p>
1.26	<p>In a Cabinet report March 2020, the following recommendations were presented:</p> <p>To proceed with Statutory consultation through the School Organisation Code, for relocating Ysgol Croes Atti, Flint to a new site within Oakenholt.</p> <p>ii) to amend the Council's nominated MIM project to the proposed project for the Mynydd Isa area and by doing so provide a mandate to officers to engage with WG's Strategic Partner for MIM, when they become available in Autumn 2020.</p> <p>iii) to consult through the School Organisation code, on the proposal to amalgamate local authority maintained primary provision in the Saltney area</p> <p>iv) to consult informally with key stakeholders in Saltney and Broughton areas with regard to proposals for Secondary provision in the area.</p>

2.00	RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS
2.01	<p>Capital and revenue implications will need regular review at key stages within the programme. All activities are coordinated with the corporate finance teams.</p>

3.00	IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND RISK MANAGEMENT
3.01	All projects are managed using a risk register. Risks are managed accordingly, and financial risks are managed through a project contingency. Any high level risk which cannot be managed with the projects/programme will be incorporated into the risk register for the Education and Youth Portfolio.

4.00	CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED/CARRIED OUT
4.01	Reports on the SOP for 21st Century school have previously been to Education & Youth Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Cabinet.
4.02	Some projects within the programme will require statutory proposals. These will be carried out based subject to Cabinet mandate and based on WG's School Organisation Code legal framework. Determination on statutory proposals are the responsibility of Cabinet.
4.03	Consultation will be required through the planning application process at the appropriate stage of development.

5.00	APPENDICES
5.01	Appendix 1 – MIM information paper.

6.00	LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS
6.01	<p>21st Century Schools Capital Programme – Cabinet report 19th November, 2019:- http://committeemeetings.flintshire.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=391&MId=4454&Ver=4&LLL=0</p> <p>School Modernisation – 21st Century Schools Capital Programme – Cabinet report 17th March, 2020:- http://committeemeetings.flintshire.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=391&MId=4458&Ver=4&LLL=0</p>

7.00	CONTACT OFFICER DETAILS
7.01	<p>Contact Officer: Damian Hughes, Senior Manager, School Planning and Provision Telephone: 01352 704135 E-mail: Damian.hughes@flintshire.gov.uk</p>

8.00	GLOSSARY OF TERMS
8.01	<p>21st Century Schools - Is a collaboration between the Welsh Government (WG), the Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA) and local authorities. It is a major, long-term and strategic capital investment programme with the aim of creating a generation of 21st century schools in Wales.</p> <p>MIM - The Mutual Investment Model is the Welsh Government's new form of Public Private Partnership.</p> <p>Capital funding - Capital funding is usually linked to acquiring or improving a long-term asset such as equipment or buildings</p> <p>Revenue funding - Is linked to items that will be used within a year. Examples include salaries, heating, lighting, services and small items of equipment.</p>