

CABINET

Date of Meeting	Tuesday, 18 th May 2021
Report Subject	Welsh Government Additional Schools Capital Repair and Maintenance Funding Grant
Cabinet Member	Leader of the Council & Cabinet Member for Education Cabinet Member for Corporate Management and Assets
Report Author	Chief Officer (Education and Youth) Chief Officer (Housing and Assets)
Type of Report	Operational

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Council is in receipt of an additional schools capital repair and maintenance grant from Welsh Government.

The Grant which is on a formula basis is £2.526,501 and is for capital repair and maintenance projects within schools during 2021/22 financial year.

The report asks Cabinet to review and agree the draft programme in order that individual projects can be progressed with expediency.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1	That the additional repair and maintenance schools programme is approved.
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REPORT DETAILS

1.00	BACKGROUND
1.01	During February 2021 the Council received notification from Welsh Government that it would receive £ 2,526,501 in schools capital repair and maintenance grant for the 2020/2021 financial year.
1.02	In acceptance of the grant an accountancy exercise has been undertaken which effectively offsets Council maintenance expenditure in 2020/21 up to the grant value, and a return is sent to Welsh government for verification. This allows the value of the grant expenditure (£2,526,501) to be planned during the current financial year (2021/22).
1.03	The criteria of the grant states that expenditure should be spent on schools with the expectation from Welsh Government that funding is spent during 2020/21 financial year.
1.04	This is the third successive year that local authorities in Wales have received this additional schools capital repair and maintenance grant from Welsh Government.
1.05	The grant is additional to the Council's own annual capital repair and maintenance programme for schools, agreed through the capital programme. As Cabinet will be aware this is in the region of £1.8m per annum and covers identified priorities associated with the Equalities Act, school toilet refurbishment schemes, Fire Risk Assessment priorities and other statutory undertakings and of course a rolling programme of planned capital repair and maintenance projects identified through condition surveys within the schools portfolio.
1.06	The combination of the Council's own annual investment programme, the additional WG capital funding and larger investment through the School Modernisation Programme has a significant impact on the schools backlog maintenance figures. In 2010 the backlog maintenance for schools was an estimated £35m but with the significant investment outlined, this figure has reduced to an estimated £14m.
1.07	The programme to the value of the grant has been developed in conjunction with the Council's maintenance team by using information obtained from the commissioned school condition surveys which are undertaken by qualified building surveyors. The surveys identify condition issues and all elements are given a priority rating. The programme is based on the priorities identified.
1.08	The draft programme is attached as appendix 1.
1.09	All but one of the proposed projects are confined to identified essential roofing, boiler replacement and statutory undertaking (emergency lighting) in a mixture of Community Primary, Secondary and Voluntary Aided schools.

1.10	There are two projects nominated at Ysgol Castell Alun, Hope. The first being to replace the existing All Weather Pitch (AWP) as this school asset has failed and is currently unusable. Reinstatement of this area is essential for delivery of curriculum PE, in particular during the winter months. It provides one of a small number of usable spaces for external curriculum delivery and spaces for breaks and lunchtimes, when use of the grassed playing fields are extremely limited.
1.11	The refurbishment of the music area is a legacy of the existing Capital investment project at Ysgol Castell Alun. Unforeseen extensive works to the existing music area roof have had to be undertaken to make it safe and ensure it is water tight, in doing so, the project budget is insufficient to complete the proposal to refurbish the music area beneath. Works to the roof have exacerbated the need to refurbish the classroom area.
1.12	In the case of both proposals for Ysgol Castell Alun, provision has already been made in the construction contract to add the items should funding and approval be gained. In doing so there are efficiencies in tendering and preliminary costs.

2.00	RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS
2.01	The grant and proposed programme can be administered within existing Council resource and or /frameworks.

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	Consultation with the Capital and Asset Programme Board.

5.00	APPENDICES
5.01	Appendix 1 - Draft Additional Repair and Maintenance Schools Capital Programme.

6.00	LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS
6.01	N/A

7.00	CONTACT OFFICER DETAILS
7.01	<p>Contact Officer: Damian Hughes Telephone: 01352 704135 E-mail: damian.hughes@flintshire.gov.uk</p>

8.00	GLOSSARY OF TERMS
8.01	<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. Routine repairs are revenue expenditures and can include significant repairs that do not extend the life of the asset or do not improve the asset (the repairs merely return the asset to its previous condition).</p>