

EDUCATION, YOUTH & CULTURE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Date of Meeting	Thursday, 3 rd February 2022
Report Subject	School Modernisation Update
Cabinet Member	Leader of the Council & Cabinet Member for Education
Report Author	Chief Officer, Education and Youth
Type of Report	Operational

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Despite significant challenges brought about by the pandemic, Brexit and unprecedented rises in construction costs and issues with supply chain, the School Modernisation Team have made significant process in the School Modernisation Programme since the last report to Education, Youth and Culture Overview and Scrutiny Committee. In the main, the Programme has been maintained and delivered within anticipated timelines.

The report informs the Education, Youth and Culture Overview and Scrutiny Committee of progress of the School Modernisation Programme across a wide number of projects.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1	That Education, Youth and Culture Overview and Scrutiny Committee notes 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>Lixwm V.A. School</u></p> <p>Following consultation through the Federation of Maintained Schools (Wales) Regulations (2014), Ysgol yr Esgob VA, Caerwys, and Lixwm VA Primary School formally federated 7th June 2021, following the statutory cooling off period.</p>
1.02	<p><u>Childcare programme</u></p> <p>The Welsh Government made capital grants available to councils for the purpose of childcare provision across Wales.</p> <p>The objectives of the programme is to provide 30 hours of government-funded early education and childcare for up to 48 weeks of the year to all three and four year olds of eligible working parents. The 30 hours will be made up of the existing minimum 10 hours of Foundation Phase Early Education (Early Entitlement) and up to 20 hours of childcare with a registered provider.</p> <p>A key policy driver for the Welsh Government is that the 30 hours offer is as clear and easy as possible for working parents to understand and children to access. Feedback from parents is that ideally, they want to be able to drop their children off and pick them up from the same site and access a seamless package of childcare, although wrap around provision between schools and non-maintained providers will continue to be an important part of the answer for some children and parents.</p> <p>The primary purpose of the capital programme is, therefore, to facilitate and support the co-location of the Foundation Phase and Childcare provision wherever possible. This is in line with our Prosperity for All commitment to “introduce a new model of Community Learning Centres, providing extended services with childcare, parenting support, family learning and community access to facilities built around the school day”.</p>
1.03	<p>Social Services lead on the Childcare Strategy and the production of a comprehensive Childcare Sufficiency Assessment (CSA) that looks at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">i) the supply of childcare in Flintshire including: type, quantity of provisions, location, costs, places available, choice; andii) the gaps in childcare including: location choice, barriers to take up provision, places unavailable. <p>The CSA was the basis of the successful bid to Welsh Government for early years’ capital.</p>
1.04	<p>The Council made a strategic decision at the outset to package up the projects within the Childcare programme for purposes of efficiency, for effective programme management, use of resources, best value (economies of scale) and procurement. To support this approach the client/operational role for the delivery of the Childcare Grant schemes was</p>

	<p>transferred from Social Services to the School Modernisation Team within Education and Youth. The Chief Officer for Education and Youth assumed the role of Senior Responsible Officer for the programme in June 2020. The construction programme is being managed through the School Modernisation team.</p>
	<p>The programme also includes different capital funding packages to maximise investment in a number of school sites and is formed from the following funding streams, WG Childcare Grant, WG Welsh Medium Grant, 21st Century schools, Flying Start and Flintshire County Council's own Capital funding.</p>
1.05	<p>Wynne Construction have been commissioned by the Council through a tender processes as the constructor for the programme on a two stage design & build contract. The programme also includes a Flying Start project at Aston Family Centre and the Council funded capital project at Ysgol Brynffordd and the proposed project at Ysgol Croes Atti, Glannau Dyfrdwy.</p>
1.06	<p>Cabinet approved the following projects within the programme and progress is as follows:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Westwood CP School, Buckley – Completed • Ysgol Derwen, Kinnerton - Completed • Ysgol Maes Y Felin, Holywell – Completed • Ysgol Sychdyn – Completed • Ysgol Merllyn, Bagillt – Completed • Aston Family Centre (WG, Flying Start Grant) – Completed • Ysgol Bro Carmel, Carmel - Site commencement Jan 2022, anticipated completion, May 2022. • Ysgol Yr Esgob, Caerwys - Site commencement Jan 2022, anticipated completion May 2022 • Ysgol Y Llan, Whitford - Site commencement planned April 2022, anticipated completion August 2022 • Ysgol Glan Aber, Bagillt - Site commencement planned May 2022 anticipated completion September 2022
1.07	<p><u>Ysgol Croes Atti, Glannau Dyfrdwy site</u></p> <p>This proposed project is funded through the Welsh Government Childcare Grant and Welsh Government 21st Century school investment programme. It forms part of an extended work package which will see an investment of circa £1.1m in the Glannau Dyfrdwy site, improving provision for Welsh medium education in the Shotton area - an important strand of the Council's Welsh in Education Strategy. The construction commenced on site in January 2022 with the anticipated completion by August 2022.</p>
1.08	<p><u>Ysgol Glanrafon, Mold</u></p> <p>The project at Ysgol Glanrafon is funded primarily via external Welsh Government funding through the Childcare and Welsh Medium Grants with the balance secured through the Council's Repair and Maintenance</p>

	<p>allocations, S106 contributions and a small amount of Salix finance through the Council's energy team to support energy efficiency measures.</p> <p>Construction of the £4.2m project commenced on site November 2020 with the completion being anticipated by the end of April 2022.</p>
1.09	<p><u>Mynydd Isa – 3-16 Campus, Mynydd Isa</u></p> <p>The proposed project replaces Mynydd Isa Argoed High School and Mynydd Isa C.P. which is the last remaining primary provision operating on split sites (separate infants and junior provision). This is Wales's first Mutual Investment Model (MIM) and a WG pathfinder project. The Project will also be the Council's first Net Zero Carbon (NZC) school. Progress is as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning permission granted January 2022 • A design and Build contractor has been engaged • Submission of Full Business Case (FBC) planned to be submitted to WG in March 2022 • Anticipated that a paper will be presented to Cabinet in June 2022, requesting approval to enter into construction phase. Thereafter, subject to approval, construction activities will commence • Anticipated completion July 2024 • School/s Occupation - September 2024.
1.10	<p><u>Drury C.P. and Penyffordd C.P.</u></p> <p>In November 2021, Cabinet approved to consult through 'The School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013, School Organisation Code' for an enlargement of the premises at two schools - Drury C.P. School and Penyffordd C.P. School.</p>
1.11	<p>The Code sets out Regulated Alterations to Community, Foundation and Voluntary schools requirements in relation to the enlargement of school premises.</p>
1.12	<p>The proposed investment projects at Drury C.P. and Penyffordd C.P. meet the triggers that require consultation on increased capacity for each school through the Welsh Government's legal framework.</p>
1.13	<p><u>Drury C.P.</u></p> <p>Having reviewed the pupil numbers and projections, it is proposed to increase the scope of the project. The proposal is to extend and refurbish the school to cater for an increased capacity of 180 FT.</p>

1.14	<p><u>Penyffordd C.P.</u></p> <p>A new primary school was constructed to replace the former infant and junior school with the school taking occupation of the new facility in September 2019.</p>
1.15	<p>The original planning approval for the new school at Penyffordd included a planned two classroom extension which would increase the capacity of the school to 375 FT pupils.</p>
1.16	<p>This project is now being brought forward due to local demand and is funded in the main from a combination of Section 106 developer contributions to education and topped up by the Council's own capital programme.</p>
1.17	<p>For both schools, delivery of these schemes cannot proceed until such time that statutory proposals to increase the capacity of the schools have been published, consulted upon and agreed by Cabinet. It is anticipated that online consultation will commence by 1st March 2022 (actual date to be determined). The initial period of statutory consultation will be open for 42 days.</p>
1.18	<p><u>Ysgol Castell Alun, Hope</u></p> <p>The £7.6m project to construct a new build three storey Art and Design Technology (DT) & classroom block was completed and occupied at the start September 2021 as planned. The refurbishment and resurfacing of existing All Weather Pitch is on-going and will be completed in a number of weeks' time.</p>
1.19	<p><u>Ysgol Brynffordd</u></p> <p>This is a council funded project for extension and remodelling of the existing school with an investment of circa £1.090m in the school which completed earlier than anticipated in January 2022. The Project has delivered an extension to the school hall, community room and storage, a new reception/nursery class, library and staffroom, and toilet provision. The project has also reconfigured existing space to form a new Head's room and ALN space.</p>
1.20	<p><u>Saltney/Broughton Area</u></p> <p>Officers are currently working with the Headteachers in the Broughton and Saltney area to collaboratively develop documents which will be used to consult with their communities on the future of Primary and Secondary school provision in the area. It is anticipated that this informal consultation will take place during spring 2022, thereafter, it is anticipated that the Council's Cabinet will receive a consultation report sharing the communities views in June/July 2022.</p>

1.21	<p><u>Welsh Medium Provision</u></p> <p><u>Ysgol Croes Atti, Flint</u></p> <p>This project replaces the existing school on a new site. Tenders for contractor commission have been received. These are currently being checked and evaluated and following this there will be a formal appointment of the contractor (within the next two months). Once contractor is appointed arrangements will be made to start the design development process with the school.</p>
1.22	<p><u>Buckley/Mynydd Isa Area</u></p> <p>The Council have submitted an expression of interest for additional Welsh Government Welsh Medium (WM) funding. The submission highlights the need for new WM start up provision within Buckley/Mynydd Isa Area, as identified within the WESP. At the time of writing, WG are currently reviewing LA's submissions.</p>
1.23	<p>Finally, the Welsh Government have renamed the 21st Century Schools and Colleges Programme, the investment programme is now called; Sustainable Communities for Learning.</p>

2.00	RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS
2.01	<p>Decisions to commit to capital expenditure investing in assets to deliver high quality services efficiently have long term implications for future revenue budgets. Consideration must be given to schemes to ensure that they are affordable, sustainable and therefore prudent.</p>
2.02	<p>The estimated capital and associated debt revenue costs arising from the schemes within this report are set out on a scheme by scheme basis.</p>
2.03	<p>The estimated associated debt revenue costs arising from the project are included in the Council Medium Term Financial strategy.</p>
2.04	<p>The following Welsh Government Grants are fully funded (100%); Childcare, Welsh Medium, Flying Start and Community Learning.</p>
2.05	<p>The Welsh Government 21st Century schools programme is funded as follows:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capital – Schools : 65% WG / 35% LA • Capital – PRU / ALN Schools : 75% WG / 25% LA • MIM is funded at an intervention rate of 81% Welsh Government and 19% Council (through revenue budgets of both organisations).

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	For projects that have been delivered, planning permission approval has been given. For projects not yet delivered, consultation will be required through the planning application process at the appropriate stage of development.
4.04	Meetings and conversations have taken place with Childcare Providers to provide information and guidance on the development of business cases which have formed an integral part of assessing the sustainability of proposals.

5.00	APPENDICES
5.01	None.

6.00	CONTACT OFFICER DETAILS
6.01	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	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. ***Now called: Sustainable Communities for Learning.***

MIM - The Mutual Investment Model is the Welsh Government's new form of Public Private Partnership.

Capital funding - Capital funding is usually linked to acquiring or improving a long-term asset such as equipment or buildings.

Revenue funding - Is linked to items that will be used within a year. Examples include salaries, heating, lighting, services and small items of equipment.

Childcare Sufficiency Assessments: - A report that brings together a range of different data and information to develop a picture of the current childcare market and to identify whether there are any gaps in supply.

The Childcare Offer: - 30 hours of funded childcare and education for 3 and 4 year olds, in working families for up to 48 weeks a year.

School Organisation Code – The new School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2018 makes Local Authorities responsible (rather than the Welsh Ministers prior to October 2018) for the determination of most statutory school organisation proposals that receive objections.