

**CYNGOR SIR POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL.**

**CABINET EXECUTIVE**

**26<sup>th</sup> March 2019**

**REPORT AUTHOR: County Councillor Myfanwy Alexander Portfolio Holder for Education**

**SUBJECT: Schools Service Major Improvements Programme 2019-2020**

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**REPORT FOR: Decision**

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**1. Summary**

1.1 This report presents the Schools Service's Major Improvement Programme for 2019/20. The purpose of this Programme is to carry out a range of improvements and refurbishments to schools and pre-school settings to ensure that facilities are fit-for-purpose. The allocated budget for 2019/20 is £2m, and it is expected that the budget will reduce to £1m in the following years.

1.2 The report is supported by the following appendix:  
**Appendix A** - Major Improvements Programme 2019-2020.

**2. Proposal**

2.1 Cabinet approved a five year Programme last year - however this report will focus on the annual programme for financial year 2019/2020 given the current pressures on funding. The previous Programme provided schools with an indication as to when the authority will be in a position to carry out projects which are required on their buildings and premises. This list of projects will be maintained and reviewed on an annual basis.

2.2 The Programme is for financial year 2019-20. Proposals for future financial years 2020-2021 onwards have been ranked and these are still provisional and will be subject to amendment/addition depending on changes in circumstances, priorities and available budgets. The Programme is also subject to the outcome and decisions around School Transformation and 21<sup>st</sup> C Schools proposals that emerge over the period of the programme.

2.3 The Programme for 2019-2020 is based on a clear prioritisation methodology – the criteria is outlined in the Schools Asset Management Plan 2018 and set out in Cabinet report C48-2015. The methodology considers the following key categories and factors:

- Condition;
- Sufficiency;
- Suitability;

- Sustainability;
- Health & Safety issues including:
  - Legislative compliance;
  - Environmental Health issues (kitchen environmental health reports);
  - DDA compliance;
  - Property safeguarding issues.
- Consideration is also given to whether a school is part of a current or future strategic school reorganisation development.

2.4 Proposals for future financial years have also been ranked but these are provisional and will be subject to amendment/addition depending on changes in circumstances, priorities and available budgets. The programme is also subject to the outcome and decisions around School Transformation/21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools Programme proposals.

2.5 A sum of £85,474 has been retained at this stage in financial year 2019/20 as a contingency to cover for emergencies, unforeseeable and legislative requirements, budget fluctuations and improvement works required to accommodate the RE-FIT programme for energy improvements.

2.6 There are project savings of £94,455 in financial year 2018/19 which are highlighted in green fill within Appendix A. It is recommended these savings are approved and rolled forwards from financial year 2018/19 and into 2019/20 as part projects in financial year 2019/20 and Appendix A. Those projects highlighted in amber fill are project budgets already approved in financial year 2018-2019.

2.7 In developing the Programme, consideration has been given to the level of investment made directly to schools through their individual delegated repairs and maintenance budget, compared to the funds delegated for repairs and maintenance (C38-2017) - Cabinet has previously approved the following comparison process):

- any school whose expenditure on repairs and maintenance is less than 80% of the delegated budget for repairs and maintenance over a 5 year period is required to make a contribution to the total cost of any capital works included in any major capital works programme. The level of a school contribution is set at the difference between actual expenditure on repairs and maintenance and 80% of the repairs and maintenance delegated budget over a 5 year period.

2.8 The Major Improvement Programme is delivered alongside the Refit Programme, which has been developed in conjunction with the Corporate Property Energy Officer and the REFIT programme as referenced in C239-2015.

2.9 The authority is working with the chosen contractor to finalise and validate the Investment Grade proposals for each of the sites which will inform the viability of the business case to deliver energy efficiency works in selected county offices and schools.

2.10 Viable projects will require a justifiable and affordable payback period through the REFIT scheme. The Schools Service, schools finance team and individual schools will approve the projects and it is proposed these proposals will be presented by the Corporate Energy Officer in a separate report to the Cabinet.

2.11 The types of energy efficiency improvement work included to schools are installation of LED lighting to rooms, insulation of boiler system pipework, Building Management System and boiler controls, zone controls to radiators, solar PV and domestic hot water heaters. All Project Management consultancy fees for managing the project have been included in the business case and within this report an allowance has been made within the overall programme contingency for consequential alterations to accommodate the energy improvement works.

2.12 Subject to approval of business cases, the schools included are:

- Crickhowell CP School
- Crickhowell High School
- Knighton C in W School
- Llanidloes C.P. School
- Llanidloes High School
- Llanfair Caereinion C.P. School
- Llanfyllin High School
- Newtown High School
- Newtown High School - John Beddoes Campus
- Penygloddfa CP School
- Presteigne C.P. School
- Rhayader C in W School
- Welshpool High School
- Ysgol Calon Cymru (Builth Wells & Llandrindod Wells sites)
- Ysgol Rhiw Bechan
- Ysgol Bannau

2.13 It is anticipated that the first tranche of work if approved by the authority, will be undertaken and completed during financial year 2019-2020.

2.13 The proposals being funded in the Major Improvements Programme for financial year 2019-2020 and future financial years may in some instances overlap with the RE: FIT programme and it is proposed that a further report is brought to the Cabinet when appropriate to approve any changes to the programme in Appendix A.

2.14 From time to time, the Welsh Government releases capital funding to support various policies and initiatives – the authority will ensure that these opportunities are maximised where appropriate. These grants are usually one-off or short-term opportunities and the authority has to respond accordingly.

2.15 There is a pressing need for investment in IT equipment in schools and establishment of a refreshed programme to ensure compliance of the schools estate with the Digital Competency Framework and compliance work. The Council's EMT has approved the funding of £400,000 from this capital programme to provide ICT in primary and special schools in Powys with basic ICT support for desktop, networks, servers, WIFI access points and the PSBA service over the last 6 years.

Each school requires devices that meet a minimum standard to ensure that learners can access digital skill development opportunities.

Investment is needed in each school's infrastructure to ensure that there are no recurring costs for the Schools Service and Local Authority. When the equipment is purchased, as part of a separate Service Level Agreement, schools will be able to plan for future investment as part of a refresh programme in their equipment alongside having a quality support system for their infrastructure.

### **3. Options Considered/Available**

3.1 The authority is required to ensure its schools' estate is fit for purpose, therefore no other options are available.

### **4. Preferred Choice and Reasons**

4.1 The authority is required to ensure its schools' estate is fit for purpose, therefore approval of the Major Improvement Programme for 2019/20 will enable the authority to improve the schools' estate.

### **6. Impact Assessment**

6.1 An impact assessment is not required as there is no change of objective of budget saving.

### **7. Corporate Improvement Plan**

7.1 Improving the schools infrastructure is a key priority within Vision 2025.

### **10. Local Member(s)**

n/a

## **11. Other Front Line Services**

- 11.1 The recommendation does not impact on other services run by the Council or on behalf of the Council.

## **12. Corporate Communications**

- 12.1 Communications comment: The report is of public interest and requires use of proactive news release and appropriate social media to publicise the decision.

## **13. Support Services (Legal, Finance, Corporate Property, HR, ICT, Business Services)**

- 13.1 Finance comments, The Capital and Financial Planning Accountant confirms that the Capital Programme includes a budget of £2m for 2019/20 Major Improvements.
- 13.2 Legal comments: The recommendations can be supported from a legal point of view
- 13.3 Corporate Property comments, “We were very encouraged to read that school services were looking at the actual repair and maintenance spend compared to the schools repairs and maintenance budget and taking action where the spend is under 80% over a 5 year period. This supports our belief that repair and maintenance budgets need to be utilised effectively for the given purpose to ensure that our assets are well maintained. We currently provide support to school services and will continue to do in the future”.
- 13.4 Catering Services comments had no comments to add to this report.
- 13.5 HR, no comments have been received.

## **14. Scrutiny**

The report has been scrutinised on the 11<sup>th</sup> February 2019.

## **15. Statutory Officers**

- 15.1 The Head of Finance (S151 Officer) notes the comments of the Capital and Financial Planning Accountant.
- 15.2 The Solicitor to the Council (Monitoring Officer) will provide comments at the meeting.

## 16. Members' Interests

16.1 The Monitoring Officer is not aware of any specific interests that may arise in relation to this report. If Members have an interest they should declare it at the start of the meeting and complete the relevant notification form.

Recommendation:	Reason for Recommendation:
<p>1. That the Major Improvements Programme for financial year 2019-2020 as set out in Appendix A be approved.</p> <p>2. That the Portfolio holder for education in consultation with the Head of Learning has delegated authority to make changes to the Major Improvements Programme that are within budget and in accordance with Capital Budget virement rules for approval.</p> <p>3. That project underspends of £94,455 in financial year 2018-2019 highlighted in green fill within Appendix A, are approved and rolled forwards from financial year 2018-2019 and into 2019-2020.</p>	<p>To progress the School Transformation Programme and meet Welsh Government fit for purpose objectives</p>

Relevant Policy (ies):	School Modernisation and Schools Asset Management Plan		
Within Policy:	Y	Within Budget:	Y

Relevant Local Member(s):	Not applicable
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Person(s) To Implement Decision:	David Thompson and Schools Capital & Revenue Programme Officers group
Date By When Decision To Be Implemented:	From 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2019 onwards

Contact Officer Name:	Tel:	Email:
David Thompson	01597 826543	david.thompson1@powys.gov.uk

**Background Papers used to prepare Report:**

9th October 2018 – Schools Asset Management Plan

C48-2015: Schools Service Major Improvements Programme scoring and prioritisation criteria

C239-2015 RE: FIT programme