

## EDUCATION, YOUTH & CULTURE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

<b>Date of Meeting</b>	Thursday, 28 <sup>th</sup> January 2021
<b>Report Subject</b>	School Modernisation Update
<b>Cabinet Member</b>	Leader of the Council & Cabinet Member for Education
<b>Report Author</b>	Chief Officer (Education and Youth)
<b>Type of Report</b>	Operational

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Despite significant challenges brought about by the pandemic, the School Modernisation Team have made significant progress in the School Modernisation Programme since the last report to Education, Youth and Culture Overview and Scrutiny Committee. The Programme has been maintained and delivered in anticipated timelines by adapting working methods and by the use of technology.

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

<b>1.00</b>	<b>BACKGROUND AND CONSIDERATIONS</b>
1.01	<p><u>Lixwm Primary School</u></p> <p>In March 2020, post consultation, Cabinet agreed with the proposal to change the designation of Lixwm Primary School from a County Primary</p>

	(CP) to a Voluntary Aided (VA) school. The change in designation came into effect 1 <sup>st</sup> September 2020.
1.02	This change in designation provides a platform for the governors of Lixwm VA school to pursue their ambition to seek a federation with a local school of the same designation.
1.03	Subsequently, the Governing Bodies of Ysgol yr Esgob VA, Caerwys, and Lixwm VA Primary School agreed to undertake a consultation on a proposal to establish a federation between the two schools.
1.04	The consultation, with which the Council assisted, was progressed in accordance with the Federation of Maintained Schools (Wales) Regulations (2014). Consultation commenced 16 November 2020 and closed 18 December 2020. As with all consultations of this nature, a version of the consultation document was produced for children and young people who are likely to be affected by the proposal.
1.05	The schools received a modest number of responses to the consultation all of which were positive. The next step in the process is that the governing bodies are required to meet to consider the responses and independently determine to be determined.
1.06	Should the governors of Ysgol yr Esgob VA, Caerwys, and Lixwm VA Primary School decide to proceed then the schools will be formally federated on 7 June 2021, following the statutory cooling off period.
1.07	<p><b><u>Childcare programme</u></b></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>

1.08	<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"> <li>i) the supply of childcare in Flintshire including: type, quantity of provisions, location, costs, places available, choice; and</li> <li>ii) the gaps in childcare including: location choice, barriers to take up provision, places unavailable.</li> </ul> <p>The CSA was the basis of the successful bid to Welsh Government for early years' capital.</p>
1.09	<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 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>
1.10	<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>
1.11	<p>Wynne Construction have been commissioned by the Council through a tender process as the constructor for the programme on a two stage design &amp; build contract. The programme also includes a Flying Start project at Aston Family Centre and the Council funded capital project at Ysgol Brynford and the proposed project at Ysgol Croes Atti, Glannau Dyfrdwy.</p>
1.12	<p>Subject to Cabinet approval, the following projects within the programme will form the construction project with Wynne Construction:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ysgol Bro Carmel, Carmel</li> <li>• Ysgol Derwen, Kinnerton,</li> <li>• Westwood CP School, Buckley</li> <li>• Ysgol Yr Esgob, Caerwys.</li> <li>• Ysgol Maes Y Felin, Holywell,</li> <li>• Ysgol Sychdyn</li> <li>• Aston Family Centre (WG, Flying Start Grant)</li> <li>• Ysgol Y Llan, Whitford</li> <li>• Ysgol Glan Aber, Bagillt.</li> <li>• Ysgol Croes Atti, Glannau Dyfrdwy (WG 21st Century/Childcare)</li> <li>• Ysgol Merllyn, Bagillt</li> <li>• Ysgol Brynford (Council's Capital Programme)</li> </ul> <p>The construction contract will start as soon as it is feasible in early 2021.</p>

1.13	<p><b><u>Ysgol Croes Atti, Glannau Dyfrdwy site</u></b></p> <p>Proposed project funding through the Welsh Government Childcare Grant and Welsh Government 21<sup>st</sup> Century school investment programme (as stated in para 1.11) forms part of an extended 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.</p>
1.14	<p><b><u>Ysgol Glanrafon, Mold</u></b></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 allocations, S106 contributions and a small amount of Salix finance through the Council's energy team to support energy efficiency measures.</p>
1.15	<p>The Council have commissioned Wynne construction on a two stage Design and Build contract, tendered through the North Wales Construction Partnership.</p>
1.16	<p>Construction in the £4.2m project commenced on site November 2020 with the anticipated completion being February 2022.</p>
1.17	<p><b><u>Ysgol Brynford</u></b></p> <p>This is a council funded project, however, from a contractual perspective is included in the extended construction package for the Childcare programme. This proposed project will see an investment of £1.090m in the Ysgol Brynford site.</p>
1.18	<p><b><u>Welsh Government Infants Class Size Grant</u></b></p> <p>The £2.7m project, (part funded by the Council) at Ysgol Glan Aber, Bagillt was completed as planned in March 2020.</p>
1.19	<p><b><u>Ysgol Castell Alun, Hope</u></b></p> <p>The £7.6m project will construct a new build three storey Art and Design Technology (DT) &amp; classroom block, relocated next to the sports hall which enables the removal of mobile classrooms, the demolition of the current DT block and the creation of a new car park.</p> <p>Willmott Dixon Construction mobilised in October 2020 and the anticipated project completion is November 2021.</p>
1.20	<p><b><u>21st Century schools Investment Programme - Band B</u></b></p> <p><b>Connah's Quay (Phase 2)</b> – Keir Construction (NW) completed phase 2 in November 2019 and this completed the Council's investment of circa £11m (across investment bands A and B) on this site.</p>

1.21	<p><b><u>Queensferry Campus Project</u></b></p> <p>The project will provide a new Pupil Referral Unit (PRU), which will bring virtually all elements of the current provision onto one site and to address the significant issues around the variety of accommodation currently in use for Plas Derwen. The project also includes investment in Queensferry CP School to address a number of suitability issues and the final legacy issues associated with the facilities shared with the former John Summers High School. Following the successful bid for an additional stream of Welsh Government funding for communities, the project also now includes provision for a new community hub.</p> <p>This significant investment will complement the Adult Day Care centre, Hwb Cyfle, and provides a final masterplan solution for the site.</p>
1.22	<p>In late 2018, Welsh Government announced £12 million was being made available across Wales under the banner of a Community Learning Grant. The Council registered an expression of interest and were successful in gaining £2.5m grant from Welsh Government.</p>
1.23	<p>The Community Hub forms part of Council's construction contract for the Queensferry Campus. However, the building will be legally transferred on completion to the constituted community group who will operate the building/external areas under its demise and deliver its activities, which will focus on adult community learning. There are no capital or revenue pressures on the Council as a result of this element of the project.</p>
1.24	<p>In forming the constituted community group, Shotton Rugby Club as an integral member, have secured additional funding through the Welsh Rugby Union to upgrade sports facilities on the site. Additionally, colleagues in Social Services have secured WG Flying Start Funding. The Queensferry Campus project is a positive example of multi-agency and community engagement and successful collaboration.</p>
1.25	<p>Kier Construction (NW) started on site in November 2020. It is anticipated that the full project will be completed by February 2022 with anticipated handover of the following elements as follows:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Plas Derwen – September 2021</li> <li>• Ty Calon/Community Hub - September 2021</li> <li>• Queensferry CP – October 2021</li> </ul>
1.26	<p><b><u>Proposed 3-16 Campus – Mynydd Isa</u></b></p> <p>In March 2020, Cabinet agreed to amend the Council's nominated Mutual Investment Model (MIM) project to the proposed project for the Mynydd Isa area and provided a mandate to officers to engage with Welsh Government's Strategic Partner for MIM, when they became available in Autumn 2020.</p>
1.27	<p>In July 2020, Cabinet agreed the following:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To reiterate its previous commitment to the Ysgol Mynydd Isa 3-16 project as a Welsh Government MIM Pathfinder.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Approved the execution, delivery and performance of the Strategic Partnering Agreement with the Welsh Education Partnership Co in autumn 2020 to facilitate the delivery of a range of infrastructure services and the delivery of the proposed 3-16 campus at Mynydd Isa.</li> <li>• Approved the appointment of Chief Officer, Neal Cockerton as 'Participant Representative' to sit on the national Strategic Partnering Board (SPB).</li> </ul>
1.28	Welsh Government have procured a private sector partner (the WEPCo) to work with it on the delivery of education and community facilities in Wales under the MIM 21st Century Schools Programme. It will be the only means of delivering revenue funded Band B projects. The Welsh Government appointed a preferred bidder in September 2020 as planned.
1.29	Subsequently, the Council have submitted a New Project Request (NPR) to the WEPCo for the proposed 3-16 campus at Mynydd Isa. The proposed project at Mynydd Isa is notable as the first MIM project in Wales.
1.30	The NPR has been accepted by WEPCo and currently the Council, Argoed High School and Mynydd Isa Primary School and education officers are engaged in client engagement meetings with the WEPCo team.
1.31	Subject to successful navigation through Council, WG business case and MIM processes, the anticipated timelines are as follows:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Client Engagement – approximately 12 months – Client Engagement (Design development Cost certainty, WG business case process).</li> <li>• Construction Phase - circa 18 - 24 months to be determined through the client engagement process (above).</li> </ul>

<b>2.00</b>	<b>RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS</b>
2.01	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.
2.02	The estimated capital and associated debt revenue costs arising from the schemes within this report are set out on a scheme by scheme basis.
2.03	The estimated associated debt revenue costs arising from the project are included in the Council Medium Term Financial strategy.
2.04	The following Welsh Government Grants are fully funded (100%); Childcare, Welsh Medium, Flying Start and Community Learning
2.05	The Welsh Government 21 <sup>st</sup> Century schools programme is funded as follows:-

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Capital – Schools : 65% WG / 35% LA</li> <li>• Capital – PRU / ALN Schools : 75% WG / 25% LA</li> <li>• MIM is funded at an intervention rate of 81% Welsh Government and 19% Council (through revenue budgets of both organisations).</li> </ul>
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<b>3.00</b>	<b>IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND RISK MANAGEMENT</b>
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.

<b>4.00</b>	<b>CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED/CARRIED OUT</b>
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 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.

<b>5.00</b>	<b>APPENDICES</b>
5.01	N/A

<b>6.00</b>	<b>LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS</b>
6.01	N/A

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

<b>8.00</b>	<b>GLOSSARY OF TERMS</b>
8.01	<p><b>21st Century Schools</b> - 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><b>MIM</b> - The Mutual Investment Model is the Welsh Government's new form of Public Private Partnership.</p> <p><b>Capital funding</b> - Capital funding is usually linked to acquiring or improving a long-term asset such as equipment or buildings.</p> <p><b>Revenue funding</b> - Is linked to items that will be used within a year. Examples include salaries, heating, lighting, services and small items of equipment.</p> <p><b>Childcare Sufficiency Assessments:</b> 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.</p> <p><b>The Childcare Offer:</b> 30 hours of funded childcare and education for 3 and 4 year olds, in working families for up to 48 weeks a year.</p> <p><b>WEPCo</b> – A private Sector Partner and subsidiary of the Development Bank of Wales (known as Welsh Government co) will be required to form WEPco, which will deliver infrastructure services to Participant (i.e. the Council) in Wales.</p>