



## **RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

### **CABINET**

**24<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2019**

### **ADDITIONAL CHILDCARE OFFER CAPITAL GRANT FUNDING**

#### **REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION AND INCLUSION SERVICES IN DISCUSSIONS WITH THE CABINET MEMBER FOR EDUCATION AND INCLUSION SERVICES (COUNCILLOR MRS J ROSSER)**

**Author(s):** Gaynor Davies, Director of Education and Inclusion Services and Andrea Richards, Head of 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools, Tel 01443 744002

#### **1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to advise Members of the receipt of additional capital grants to support the implementation of the Welsh Government Childcare Offer in RCT.

#### **2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that the Cabinet:

- 2.1 Note the information contained in this report.
- 2.2 Note the receipt of an additional £1 million of capital funding from Welsh Government in addition to the £2.5 million already awarded in February 2019.
- 2.3 Agree to add the funded project to the capital programme.

#### **3 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 3.1 To inform Members of the receipt of grant monies and to advise on the expenditure plans and proposals for these monies.

#### **4. BACKGROUND**

- 4.1 In August 2018, the Council was invited by Welsh Government to submit a grant funding bid and business case for capital projects that will support implementation of the childcare element of the Childcare Offer in RCT.
- 4.2 The Childcare Offer is a Welsh Government initiative that provides 30 hours per week of combined Foundation Phase Nursery (FPN) education

and funded childcare for working families of 3 and 4 year olds for 48 weeks of the year.

- 4.3 The capital grant programme is to support projects that will contribute to supporting the implementation of the Childcare Offer in RCT. The primary purpose of the capital programme is to fund capital projects that will facilitate and support the seamless transition between the FPN education element of the Childcare Offer and the additional funded childcare. Supporting co-location of both elements of the offer is preferred wherever possible.
- 4.4 A funding bid was submitted to Welsh Government in September 2018. It included 11 projects to support the development or creation of childcare facilities on, or near, school sites. Funding was also requested for a Project Officer post, funded until 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021 and for a ‘Small Capital Works’ grant scheme to enable childcare providers delivering the Childcare Offer to apply for funding to support small capital projects.
- 4.5 In February 2019, we were advised that we had been successful in receiving funding for four of the 11 capital projects, as well as funding for the small capital grant scheme / Project Officer post. These were:

<b>Project detail</b>	<b>Amount awarded</b>
Tonyrefail Community School	£125,000
Gwauncelyn Primary School	£745,000
Cwmlai Primary School	£745,000
Dolau Primary School	£730,000
Small capital grant scheme	£120,000
Project Officer post	£133,014
<b>Total amount awarded</b>	<b>£2,598,014</b>

- 4.6 In June 2019, Welsh Government released further funding to support delivery of some of the unsuccessful projects. RCT has been awarded a further £1,000,000 to refurbish and expand the current childcare provision based in Treorchy Primary School.

## **5. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 Equality and Community Impact Assessments are not required in respect of this additional proposal, but all work undertaken will be fully accessible and compliant with the Equality Act 2010.

## **6. CONSULTATION**

- 6.1 Consultation on the proposal contained within the funding business case is not a statutory requirement. However, discussions were held with key stakeholders prior to the submission of the funding bid. Further engagement will be undertaken with stakeholders in the planning and delivery of the project.

## **7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATION(S)**

- 7.1 The total amount of indicative grant funding to be received from Welsh Government is £1,000,000. This additional funding is only available in the current financial year.
- 7.2 The additional project is 100% funded by Welsh Government and there is no requirement for any match funding or financial contribution from the Council.

## **8. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS OR LEGISLATION CONSIDERED**

- 8.1 The Council has duties under section 22(1) of the Childcare Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act') to "secure, so far as is reasonably practicable, that the provision of childcare (whether or not by it) is sufficient to meet the requirements of parents in their area who require childcare in order to enable them (a) to take up, or remain in work; or (b) to undertake education or training which could reasonably be expected to assist them to obtain work."
- 8.2 The Childcare Capital Grant, and the funding bid subsequently submitted by RCT, supports the Welsh Government pledge to deliver 30 hours per week of combined FPN education and funded childcare to working parents of 3 and 4 year olds for 48 weeks a year.

## **9. LINKS TO THE CORPORATE AND NATIONAL PRIORITIES AND THE WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS ACT.**

- 9.1 This report encompasses the priorities set out in the RCT Corporate Plan – The Way Ahead, particularly the objectives of '*building a strong economy*' by supporting parents to conveniently access childcare and education services in one place, and '*promoting independence and positive lives for everyone*' by offering children purpose built, 21<sup>st</sup> Century facilities in which to grow and learn.
- 9.2 Goal one of the Well Being of Future Generations Act 2015 – '*a prosperous Wales*' is supported by this application as co-location of childcare services on school site will make it easier for parents to take up employment opportunities.

9.3 This funding bid supports the priorities set out in the Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2017-2022 action plan, particularly those priorities that support implementation of the Childcare Offer. Co-location of services on school site also supports the aims of the Band B 21st Century Schools Programme for RCT.

## **10. CONCLUSION**

10.1 Members are asked to note the additional planned investment of £1,000,000 in our school sites, which is in addition to the Welsh Government Childcare Offer capital funding already received and sums being invested through our annual capital programme and the 21st Century Schools Programme.

### **Other Information:-**

#### ***Relevant Scrutiny Committee:***

Children and Young People

#### ***Contact Officer:***

Denise Humphries, Senior 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools Project Officer, 01443 744026

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**

**AS AMENDED BY**

**THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985**

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**Item:**

**Background Papers**

- Childcare Offer Capital Funding bid to Welsh Government
- Copy of grant letter received from Welsh Government

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