

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

### **CABINET**

**9<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2017**

### **EDUCATION AND LIFELONG LEARNING DIRECTORATE PLANNED CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2017/18**

#### **REPORT OF THE TEMPORARY DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION AND LIFELONG LEARNING IN DISCUSSION WITH THE RELEVANT PORTFOLIO HOLDER, COUNCILLOR E. HANAGAN**

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

- 1.1 The report provides Members with details of the capital works for approval for 2017/18 as part of the Council's three-year Capital Programme.

#### **2. RECOMMENDATION**

- 2.1 To approve the Education Capital Programme priority schemes for 2017/2018 as outlined in Appendices 1-10 and to approve scheme commencement.

#### **3. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATION**

- 3.1 An ongoing programme of work is required in school premises to deal with essential condition and health and safety issues across the school estate, to ensure school buildings are 'safe, watertight and warm'.
- 3.2 To continue to deliver the Council's long term school modernisation improvement programme supporting one of the Council's Corporate Plan Priorities: 'Economy – Building a strong economy'.

#### **4 BACKGROUND**

- 4.1 Members will be aware that an amount of £7.9M has been allocated to the planned capital programme (minor works) for 2017/18, as agreed by Council on the 1<sup>st</sup> March 2017.

4.2 The continuation of the three-year rolling Capital Programme and sustaining the level of funding will continue to make significant enhancements to the quality of our school premises and has been a vital part of the Council school modernisation programme which has undoubtedly contributed to improved standards. The 2017/18 allocation includes £2M of additional resources identified as part of the “Corporate Plan – Investment Priorities” as agreed by Council on the 1st March 2017. This additional resource is allocated to the “Schools Investment Programme” and details are attached in Appendix 10.

4.3 In framing options for the planned capital works programme, the following factors have been taken into account:

- The results of the Property Condition Surveys and further investigation works by Council surveyors and engineers.
- Delivering priorities set out in the Service Asset Management Plan in line with the Corporate Asset Management Plan.
- ESTYN Inspection Reports.
- Health and Safety considerations.
- Reducing energy and carbon.
- Refurbishing classrooms to provide inspirational up-to-date modern learning environments.
- Investing in adaptations to schools to assist pupils with mobility and other accessibility needs to promote inclusion.

4.4 The programme has been divided into categories identifying the nature of the works considered to be a priority.

## **5. CATEGORIES WITHIN THE PROGRAMME**

5.1 The table below sets out the proposed allocation of the planned capital programme funds now available to spend in 2017/18.

<b>SPEND CATEGORY</b>	<b>£M</b>
Kitchen Refurbishments	0.250
Window & Door Replacements	0.150
Essential Works	0.490
Electrical Rewiring	0.165
Fire Alarm Upgrades	0.080
Toilet Refurbishments	0.350
DDA Compliance Works E&LL	0.200
E&LL Condition Surveys	0.050
Boiler Replacement	0.285
Roof Renewal	1.700
Asbestos Remediation Works	1.830
Schools Investment Programme	2.000
Improvements to Schools	0.100

Capitalisation of IT Hardware/Software & Licences	0.250
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>7.900</b>

5.2 Appendices 1–10 set out programmes of work for each category included above, with the exception of Education and Lifelong Learning Condition Surveys, Asbestos Remediation Works, Improvements to Schools and Capitalisation of IT Hardware/Software & Licences.

5.3 The following narrative summarises the required investment and intended outcome of each Spend Category:

- **Kitchen Refurbishments/Remodelling**

A rolling programme of replacement kitchens is required to maintain the current capital asset of school buildings and assist with much needed improvements, contributing towards the implementation of the Welsh Government 'Healthy Eating in Schools (Nutritional Standards and Requirements ) (Wales) 2013'. Appendix 1 provides Members with a list of identified schemes.

- **Window & Door Replacements**

A rolling programme of replacement windows and doors is required to improve the energy efficiency, and in doing so reduce energy costs, and maintain the current capital asset of school buildings. Appendix 2 provides Members with a list of identified schemes.

- **Essential Works**

Members will be aware of the amount and value of outstanding historical maintenance works required to the buildings in the Education & Lifelong Learning portfolio. Appendix 3 provides Members with a list of priority works, considered essential to maintain a 'safe, watertight and warm' environment for all users.

- **Electrical Rewiring**

Appendix 4 provides Members with details of Education establishments that require urgent electrical rewiring in order to comply with current legislation.

- **Fire Alarm Upgrades**

Appendix 5 provides Members with details of schools that require fire alarm upgrades from manual to automatic detection systems in order to comply with current legislation.

- **Toilet Refurbishments**

Appendix 6 provides Members with details of schools that require urgent refurbishment to comply with The Education (School) Premises Regulations 1999, the Health & Safety at Work Act 1974 and to support the recommendations in the

report 'Lifting the Lid on the Nation's School Toilets' produced by the Children's Commissioner for Wales.

- **Equalities Act/Compliance Works**  
An allocation of funding has been set aside to continue with works as and when deemed necessary to comply with the Equalities Act 2010. Appendix 7 provides Members with a list of identified schemes.
- **Boiler Replacement**  
A significant number of systems are reaching the end of their useful life, therefore, it is considered prudent to fund a rolling programme of replacement to assist with the reduction in energy and carbon emissions. Appendix 8 provides Members with a list of identified schemes.
- **Roof Renewal**  
Again it is considered prudent to allocate funding to ensure a rolling programme is maintained. Appendix 9 provides Members with a list of identified schemes.
- **Schools Investment Programme**  
A further investment programme in our school premises has been identified (Appendix 10) to reduce our ongoing revenue commitments and improve our capital asset and support school improvement where areas of concern have been identified in terms of upgrading of classrooms to ensure our pupils learn in high quality indoor and outdoor classrooms and play areas.
- **Asbestos Remediation Works**  
An allocation of funding has been earmarked to continue essential asbestos remediation works, following the results of recent asbestos surveys commissioned by the Council, and to progress a programme of replacement CLASP buildings affected by asbestos.
- **Improvements to Schools**  
Under accounting regulations, certain expenditure that was previously charged directly to the revenue budget is now shown in the Capital Programme, whilst still being funded from revenue.
- **Capitalisation of IT Hardware/Software & Licences**  
An allocation of funding has been committed for on going hardware, software and licences to support essential data systems such as SIMS (Schools Information Management System).

## **6. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 The proposed schemes have given due consideration to equality issues particularly in relation to access to our school premises. Schools are a key part of our communities and as such it is important that they are well maintained, accessible and 'fit for purpose'.

## **7 CONSULTATION**

- 7.1 There are no consultation requirements arising from this report.

## **8 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 8.1 The funding allocation to support spend categories contained within this report was agreed by Council on the 1<sup>st</sup> of March 2017 as part of the three year Capital Programme 2017/18 to 2019/20. This report does not commit any additional spend over and above this agreed allocation.

## **9 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS OR LEGISLATION CONSIDERED**

- 9.1 There are no legal implications as a result of the recommendations set out in this report.

## **10 LINKS TO THE COUNCILS CORPORATE PLAN/OTHER CORPORATE PRIORITIES/SIP**

- 10.1 This investment programme forms part of the Council's larger school modernisation and 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools Programme and supports one of the Council's Corporate Plan Priorities 'Economy – Building a Strong Economy'.

## **11 CONCLUSION**

- 11.1 The projects identified in the planned capital programme can be committed and delivered within the financial year and will have an immediate impact on improving schools and their surrounding communities. A coherent plan of expenditure over the three-year period will contribute to improvements in a wide range of physical environments benefiting pupils, staff, young people and members of the public.