



RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

MUNICIPAL YEAR 2021-2022

**SPECIAL OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
16 JULY 2021**

**PRE-SCRUTINY OF THE 21ST CENTURY SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES
PROGRAMME – MUTUAL INVESTMENT MODEL (MIM)**

**REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR DEMOCRATIC SERVICES &
COMMUNICATIONS**

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to provide the Overview & Scrutiny Committee with the opportunity to comment on the Mutual Investment Model (MIM) funding element of Welsh Government's 21st Century Schools and Colleges Programme in relation to the Council's MIM Pathfinder Project.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Members:

- 2.1 Consider the information in this report, its appendices and the information provided during the meeting; and
- 2.2 Determine whether they would like to make any comments, observations or recommendations for consideration to the Cabinet on the 20th July 2021.

3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 During the pre-scrutiny session Members will have the opportunity to consider and respond to the recommendations to Cabinet and explore the proposals to progress the MIM pathfinder projects to the next stage

in accordance with the Approval Process for New Projects as set out in Schedule 5 of the Strategic Partnering Agreement for the delivery.

- 3.2 To raise any issues as identified by the Overview & Scrutiny Committee.

4. BACKGROUND

- 4.1 The report attached at **Appendix 1** explains that following the Cabinet meeting in September 2020 approval was given to enter into the Strategic Partnering Agreement (SPA) with Welsh Education Partnership Co (WEPCo). WEPCo are Welsh Government's private sector partner which deliver the services to participant local authorities and further education institutions.
- 4.2 Members will note that details of the Mutual Investment Model MIM are set out at sections 4.2 to 4.4 of the report. The MIM Project Agreement (contractual) document uses a Welsh Government standard form template and *'any agreement to enter into this formal legally binding contract with the private sector will be brought back to Cabinet for approval at the relevant time'*.
- 4.3 Following Cabinet's agreement to begin the Approval Process for New Projects as set out in Schedule 5 of the Strategic Partnering Agreement for the delivery of new school buildings, a Strategic Outline Business Case (SOC) was submitted to Welsh Government on 30th October 2020 and approved on 18th December 2020.
- 4.4 The schools contained within the Council's MIM Pathfinder Project are listed at 4.6 of the attached report and meet the Welsh Government's criteria for pathfinder project status (paragraph 4.7). Details of the Council's New Project Request and related responses are set out in the subsequent paragraphs and conclude that the WEPCo's Stage 1 report is to be provided to the Council for review on the 2nd of July 2021.
- 4.5 Members are asked to note the progress to date and information on the next steps, should approval be granted to progress to Stage 2 of the MIM process for this Pathfinder Project (section 5) as indicated in the high-level summary, tabled at point 5.4.
- 4.6 The information is supplemented by the Financial Implications set out at section 9 and is subject to approval by Cabinet and by the Welsh Government following the submission of the relevant Business Cases and the receipt of finalised detailed costs.
- 4.7 The following are the proposed recommendations to Cabinet:
- Note the costs incurred to date and indicative costs going forward.

- Approve the submission of an Outline Business Case to Welsh Government for consideration in July / August 2021.
- Approve progression to Stage 2 of the MIM process with Welsh Government and the private sector partner.
- Note the costs incurred to date and indicative costs going forward.
- Note that formal approval to proceed to deliver the Pathfinder Project, and to enter into associated legal documentation to facilitate the same including a Project Agreement, would require further approval of the Cabinet.

5. ROLE OF OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

- 5.1 In line with its terms of reference and as the overarching Scrutiny Committee, Members of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee requested that the Mutual Investment Model (MIM) be included in its forward work programme for consideration by this Committee.
- 5.2 An invitation has been extended to all scrutiny members to attend and participate with the opportunity to undertake pre-scrutiny of the Mutual Investment Model (MIM).
- 5.3 The Overview & Scrutiny has the opportunity to contribute to this matter and where appropriate make comments, observations and/or recommendations to Cabinet in respect of these proposals for consideration at the Cabinet meeting on the 20th July 2021.

6. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1. An Equality Impact Assessment is not required with regard to this report.

7. CONSULTATION

- 7.1 There are no consultation requirements emanating from the recommendations set out in this report.

8. FINANCIAL IMPLICATION(S)

- 8.1 There are no financial implications directly aligned to this report

9. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS OR LEGISLATION CONSIDERED

- 9.1 The report aims to ensure the Council complies with its legal duty under the Well-being of Future Generations Act 2015.

10. LINKS TO CORPORATE AND NATIONAL PRIORITIES AND THE WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS ACT.

- 10.1 The proposals will meet a number of the goals set out in the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and links to RCTCBC's Corporate Plan for the period between 2020 to 2024, specifically the priority:
- Prosperity – Creating the opportunity for people and businesses to be innovative, entrepreneurial and fulfil their potential and prosper
 - Ensuring we have good schools, so all children have access to a great education.

11. CONCLUSION

- 11.1 Following a request made by the Overview & Scrutiny Committee and in line with its terms of reference, the report has been brought before Members so that they have the opportunity to form a view on the proposals set out within the Mutual Investment Model (MIM) funding element of Welsh Government's 21st Century Schools and Colleges Programme in relation to the Council's MIM Pathfinder Project.
- 11.2 Any comments and feedback to the Cabinet will ensure that the Overview & Scrutiny Committee fully evaluates the effectiveness of its overview and scrutiny function.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT, 1972

as amended by

THE ACCESS TO INFORMATION ACT, 1985

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

SPECIAL OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

16th July 2021

APPENDIX 1– CABINET REPORT, 20th JULY 2021

**21ST CENTURY SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES PROGRAMME – MUTUAL
INVESTMENT MODEL (MIM) - UPDATE**