

**CYNGOR SIR POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL.**

**CABINET EXECUTIVE  
24<sup>th</sup> March 2020**

**REPORT AUTHOR:** County Councillor Phyl Davies  
Portfolio Holder for Education

**REPORT TITLE:** Schools Service Major Improvements budget 2020-21

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**REPORT FOR:** Decision

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**1. Purpose**

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to seek Cabinet approval for the overall Schools Major Improvement budget for financial year 2020/21.
- 1.2 Full Council, on the 28<sup>th</sup> February 2020, approved the Council's Capital Strategy for 2020 – 2030, which included an allocation for the Schools Major Improvement Programme. The purpose of this Programme is to carry out a range of improvements to schools and pre-school settings to ensure that facilities are fit-for-purpose. The allocated budget for 2020/21 is £3,008,452 including project savings carried forward from 2019/2020 as detailed in Table 1 below.
- 1.3 The Programme is flexible and can be amended if there are implications that arise from either school reorganisation proposals or plans for significant capital investment that may be funded from 21<sup>st</sup> C Schools Programme (or other grants) that emerge over the period of the Programme.

**2. Background**

- 2.1 The Major Improvement Programme focuses on improving the condition of school buildings, safeguarding, energy improvements, essential health and safety works and improving external areas to maintain education and curriculum delivery.
- 2.2 The Programme for 2020/21 will be based on a clear prioritisation methodology and ranking of projects – 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.
- 2.3 The Major Improvement Programme will be delivered alongside the energy saving projects funded by the Welsh Government SALIX capital invest to save scheme as referenced in C239-2015. This programme has been developed in collaboration with the Corporate Energy Management Officer.
- 2.4 All viable school energy efficiency scheme projects funded through the Welsh Government SALIX capital invest to save scheme, will require a justifiable business case and affordable payback period. The Schools Service, the Energy Management Officer, Schools Finance team and individual schools will agree the projects subject to overall approval in principle by the Portfolio Holder or cabinet.
- 2.5 An application has been made by the Energy Management Officer for the funding of energy efficiency project works through the Welsh Government (SALIX) programme. These energy efficiency works are very likely to result in the need for consequential works, which will need to be funded from the Major Improvements programme budget. The value of consequential works will be assessed for each project and, projects will only proceed within the available budget approved in 2020/21.

### **3 Advice**

- 3.1 The advice of officers is that Cabinet approves the overall budget of £3,008,452 for financial year 2020/21 for the Schools Major Improvement Programme, to ensure its schools' estate is safe and fit for purpose.
- 3.2 Officers will allocate funding to projects as defined by the criteria outlined in the Schools Asset Management Plan 2018 and set out in Cabinet report C48-2015. It is noted that no financial limit is set for an individual project as prioritisation will dictate how the funding is allocated. However, the overall budget will not be exceeded.

### **4. Resource Implications**

- 4.1 The total budget for the Schools Major Improvement Programme for 2020/21 is set out in Table 1 below. £100k has been rolled over from 2019/20. There is no financial limit set for an individual project within the Programme, but the overall total must not exceed the approved budget of £3,008,452.

Table 1

<b>Approved Budget</b>	<b>2020/21 £</b>
Major Improvements programme	£2,908,452*
Project savings carried forward from 2019/20 to 2020/21	£100,000
<b>Total £</b>	<b>£3,008,452</b>

\*Note 1 – funding approved by full Council 28<sup>th</sup> February 2020

4.2 The Head of Finance (S151 Officer) supports the recommendations.

## **5. Legal implications**

5.1 Legal: The recommendation can be supported from a legal point of view.

5.2 The Head of Legal and Democratic Services (Monitoring Officer) has commented as follows: “I note the legal comment and have nothing to add to the report”.

## **6. Comment from local member(s)**

6.1 Not applicable.

## **7. Integrated Impact Assessment**

7.1 An impact assessment is not required.

## **8. Recommendation**

It is recommended that:

1. Cabinet approves the overall budget of £3,008,452 for financial years 2020/21 for the Schools Major Improvement Programme, to ensure that the schools estate is safe and fit-for-purpose.
2. the Schools Service will allocate funding to projects as defined by the criteria outlined in the Schools Asset Management Plan 2018 and set out in Cabinet report C48-2015. It is noted that no financial limit is set for an individual project, as prioritisation will dictate how the funding is allocated. However, the overall budget will not be exceeded.

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Head of Service: Lynette Lovell

Corporate Director: Dr Caroline Turner

**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