

**CYNGOR SIR POWYS COUNTY COUNCIL.**

**CABINET EXECUTIVE**

**Date: 4<sup>th</sup> May 2021**

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

**REPORT TITLE: Schools Service Major Improvements budget 2021-22**

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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 2021/22.
- 1.2 Full Council, on the 25<sup>th</sup> February 2021, approved the Council's Capital Strategy for 2021 – 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 2021/22 is £5,042,738 including projects carried forward due to COVID operational risks from financial year 2020/2021 to 2021/22 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.
  - Appendix 1: Schools Major Improvement Ranking Criteria

**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 2021/22 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 criteria is attached at Appendix 1. 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 has been assessed for each project and, projects will only proceed within the available budget approved in 2021/22.

### **3 Advice**

3.1 The advice of officers is that Cabinet approves the overall budget of £5,042,738 for financial year 2021/22 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, and outlined in Appendix 1. 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 2021/22 is set out in Table 1 overleaf. A total of £749,109 has been rolled over from 2020/21. There is no financial limit set for an individual project within the Programme, but the overall total must not exceed the approved budget of £5,042,738.

Table 1

<b>Approved Budget</b>	<b>2021/22 £</b>
Major Improvements Programme	£2,090,389*
Welsh Government Capital Maintenance Grant	£2,203,240**
Various Schools projects carried forward due to COVID and H&S risks	£749,109
<b>Total</b>	<b>£5,042,738</b>

\*Note 1 – funding approved by full Council 25<sup>th</sup> February 2021.

\*\*Note 2 – Welsh Government Capital Maintenance Grant 2020/21 has been accepted by Powys County Council.

4.2 The Head of Finance (S151 Officer) can confirm that the budget allocation is in place to support 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:

Cabinet gives delegated authority to the Interim Head of Education, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Education and Property, to allocate the spending of the overall budget of £5,042,738 for financial year 2021/22 for the Schools Major Improvement Programme in accordance with paragraph 4.1 of the report and the criteria outlined in the Schools Asset Management Plan 2018 and set out in Cabinet report C48-2015 to ensure that the school's estate is safe and fit-for-purpose.

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**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