

BRIDGEND COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO CABINET

18 DECEMBER 2018

REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR – EDUCATION AND FAMILY SUPPORT

WELSH-MEDIUM CAPITAL GRANT

1. Purpose of report

1.1 The purpose of this report is to:

- update Cabinet with regards to the outcome of the bid submitted to Welsh Government in respect of the Welsh-medium capital grant; and
- advise on the way forward in respect of the scheme development.

2. Connection to corporate improvement objectives/other corporate priorities

2.1 This report relates to the following Corporate Improvement Plan priorities:

- **Supporting a successful economy** - we will take steps to make the county a good place to do business, for people to live, work, study and visit, and to ensure that our schools are focused on raising the skills, qualifications and ambitions of all people in the county.
- **Helping people to be more self-reliant** – we will take early steps to reduce or prevent people from becoming vulnerable or dependent on the Council and its services.
- **Smarter use of resources** – ensuring that all its resources (financial, physical, human and technological) are used as effectively and efficiently as possible and support the development of resources throughout the community that can help deliver the Council's priorities.

3. Background

- 3.1 In March 2018, the Cabinet Secretary for Finance made available £30m across Wales for projects dedicated to supporting and growing the use of the Welsh language in education. This funding would assist the delivery of Welsh Government's ongoing commitment to achieve a million Welsh speakers by 2050.
- 3.2 Welsh Government advised that this funding was in addition to the existing allocation announced for Band B of the 21st Century Schools and Education Programme. With this in mind, consideration was given to how best increase the number of Welsh speakers within the borough.
- 3.3 A childcare sufficiency audit of settings within Bridgend had identified gaps in this vital provision. These gaps, together with a lack of Welsh-medium childcare,

resulted in a decision being taken to centre Bridgend's proposals on Welsh-medium sessional, child and wraparound care.

- 3.4 In determining the locations that would benefit from such provision, consideration was given to developing centres to support transition from Welsh-medium childcare provision to Welsh-medium primary education, thereby encouraging transition, and in turn, promoting and supporting Welsh-medium schools in key areas of the county borough.
- 3.5 The Garw Valley South scheme, which is being delivered through Band A of the School Modernisation Programme, will culminate with the opening of Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Calon Y Cymoedd at Bettws, in January 2019. Bettws and Ogmore Valley areas were identified as key locations that would benefit from Welsh-medium childcare provision which would help support transition into the school at its new location.
- 3.6 In addition, the geographical areas of Bridgend Town and Porthcawl were also identified as requiring Welsh-medium childcare settings, which in turn would support transition into Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Ogwr and Ysgol Y Ferch o'r Sgêr respectively.
- 3.7 Therefore, a £2.6m bid was submitted to create Welsh-medium childcare provision in Bettws, Ogmore Valley, Bridgend Town and Porthcawl.

4. Current situation

- 4.1 In September, the Minister for Welsh Language and Lifelong Learning announced the outcome of the bidding process, and Bridgend County Borough Council was awarded a £2.6m capital grant.
- 4.2 Preliminary work has started on developing each of the projects. Two teams have been established (ie a project team and a steering group). The projects will be managed by project managers within the School Modernisation Team. The School Modernisation Programme Board will support the projects offering advice and guidance.
- 4.3 The project team will deliver the construction element of the scheme and work has commenced on the initial stages of the project focusing on options appraisal in respect of developable land.
- 4.4 The Welsh Language Steering Group includes key stakeholders including officer representation, headteachers from Welsh-medium schools within the county borough and representation from Mudiad Meithrin, Bridgend College, Menter Bro Ogwr, Bridgend Association of Voluntary Organisations, Urdd and the National Day Nurseries Association.
- 4.5 The purpose of this steering group will be to support the development and delivery of the Welsh-medium capital programme. The group will, through consultation and collaboration, offer a cohesive approach to the provision of effective community buildings, with a focus on increasing opportunities for children and the wider community. As there is no revenue element to the grant, this group will work together to support the programme, contributing to ensure that the end product is sustainable from a financial perspective.

4.6 The steering group's work has commenced, terms of reference have been agreed and meetings have been scheduled. The group will actively contribute information to help inform the work of the project team.

5. Effect upon policy framework and procedure rules

5.1 There is no effect upon the policy framework or procedure rules.

6. Equality Impact Assessment

6.1 Although an Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) initial screening has been carried out for the programme, once schemes have been sufficiently developed, they will be subject to separate EIAs, as the detail may vary between projects.

7. Wellbeing and Future Generations Act (2015)

The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 Assessment (appendix A) provides a comprehensive summary of the outcomes expected from the implementation of the service.

Long-term	This project will meet both short and long-term planning with regard to both the number of childcare places available in the borough, alongside increasing Welsh-medium provision and focussed Welsh language benefits for the communities identified.
Prevention	<p>It will reduce the impact of long term demands on the level of childcare in relation to information on the Bridgend local authority Childcare Sufficiency Assessment (CSA).</p> <p>The project also has at its aim the ability to increase Welsh speakers and the number of children entering Welsh language education.</p>
Integration	The areas have been considered in the application for the funding and found to meet expectations set. The project will deliver social, economic and cultural outcomes as it will be a community asset.
Collaboration	The project development and planning phase is being supported by a steering group where stakeholders with vested interests both internal to Bridgend County Borough Council and external, form the group are members.
Involvement	The stakeholders involved in the steering group reflect both childcare and Welsh language organisations. The schemes will deliver beyond the key focus of childcare and education with other services planned, focused on sustainability, community benefit and wellbeing of citizens.

8. Financial implications

8.1 The £2.6m capital allocation equates to £650k per project which covers costs associated with the design and construction of the building. No capital

contribution is required from the Council as the build cost is 100% funded by Welsh Government.

8.2 Welsh Government has not made revenue funding available for the ongoing running cost of the buildings, as such, all associated costs (eg energy and cleaning) for the settings will have to be borne by the end user. It is therefore critical for the steering group to work together to ensure the future sustainability of the building.

8.3 Loose furniture, equipment and IT will have to be provided by the end user.

9. Recommendations

Cabinet is recommended to:

- note the outcome of the bid submitted to Welsh Government in respect of the Welsh-medium capital grant; and
- approve the approach to the scheme development.

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Background documents

WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS (WALES) ACT 2015 ASSESSMENT
Appendix A

Approve Equalities Impact Assessment

Appendix A

WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS (WALES) ACT 2015 ASSESSMENT

Project Description (key aims):	
Section 1	Complete the table below to assess how well you have applied the 5 ways of working.
Long-term	1. How does your project / activity balance short-term need with the long-term and planning for the future?
(The importance of balancing short term needs with the need to safeguard the ability to also meet long term needs)	This project will meet both short and long-term planning with regard to both the number of childcare places available in the borough, alongside increasing Welsh-medium provision and focussed Welsh language benefits for the communities identified.
Prevention	2. How does your project / activity put resources into preventing problems occurring or getting worse?
(How acting to prevent problems occurring or getting worse may help public bodies meet their objectives)	The development of this project will reduce the impact of long term demands on the level of childcare in relation to information on the Bridgend local authority Childcare Sufficiency Assessment (CSA). The project also has at its aim the ability to increase Welsh speakers and the number of children entering Welsh language education.
Integration	3. How does your project / activity deliver economic, social, environmental & cultural outcomes together?
(Considering how the public body's well-being objectives may	With the funding sourced from both the Welsh Government (WG) childcare and Welsh language Capital funding grants, these areas have been considered in the application for the funding and found to meet expectations set. The project will deliver social, economic and cultural outcomes as it will be a community asset.

<p>impact upon each of the wellbeing goals, on their objectives, or on the objectives of other public bodies)</p>	<p>The programme buildings will be project managed by the School Modernisation Team, with environmental standards and approaches a strong focus.</p>
<p>Collaboration (Acting in collaboration with any other person (or different parts of the body itself) that could help the body meet its well-being objectives)</p>	<p>4. How does your project / activity involve working together with partners (internal and external) to deliver well-being objectives?</p> <p>The project development and planning phase is being supported by a steering group where stakeholders with vested interests both internal to Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) and external, form the group are members.</p>
<p>Involvement (The importance of involving people with an interest in achieving the well-being goals, and ensuring that those people reflect the diversity of the area which the body serves)</p>	<p>5. How does your project / activity involve stakeholders with an interest in achieving the well-being goals? How do those stakeholders reflect the diversity of the area?</p> <p>The stakeholders involved in the steering group reflect both childcare and Welsh language organisations.</p> <p>Wellbeing of the target audience/users is a strong focus.</p> <p>The proposed accommodation will be able to deliver beyond the key focus of childcare and education with other services planned, focused on sustainability, community benefit and wellbeing of citizens.</p>

Section 2		
Assess how well your project / activity will result in multiple benefits for our communities and contribute to the national well-being goals (use Appendix 1 to help you).		
Description of the Well-being goals	How will your project / activity deliver benefits to our communities under the national well-being goals?	Is there any way to maximise the benefits or minimise any negative impacts to our communities (and the contribution to the national well-being goals)?
<p>A prosperous Wales An innovative, productive and low carbon society which recognises the limits of the global environment and therefore uses resources efficiently and proportionately (including acting on climate change); and which develops a skilled and well-educated population in an economy which generates wealth and provides employment opportunities, allowing people to take advantage of the wealth generated through securing decent work.</p>	<p>Each of the communities involved will benefit from a range of community services.</p> <p>These include further childcare, increased, workforce opportunities and learning and development opportunities. It is intended the venues will offer a wide range of community services such as wellbeing (eg yoga) and adult education alongside the prime focus of childcare and in increasing opportunities to return to work.</p>	<p>The accommodation and services planned will need to be sustainable and will offer each community a range of wellbeing benefits.</p>
<p>A resilient Wales A nation which maintains and enhances a biodiverse natural environment with healthy functioning ecosystems that support social, economic and ecological resilience and the capacity to adapt to change (for example climate change).</p>	<p>The building will be environmentally and economically focused on effective global approaches. The local authority is a key player in diligence around these factors when developing new services and accommodation.</p>	
<p>A healthier Wales A society in which people's physical and mental well-being is maximised and in which choices and behaviours that</p>	<p>It is intended the venue will offer a wide range of community services. This will include services with a strong focus on wellbeing of citizens children, young</p>	

benefit future health are understood.	people and adults.	
<p>A more equal Wales A society that enables people to fulfil their potential no matter what their background or circumstances (including their socio economic background and circumstances).</p>	As with many community services, a focus on fair opportunities will be clear in the development and operational approaches used to develop this proposed community facility.	
<p>A Wales of cohesive communities Attractive, viable, safe and well-connected communities.</p>	The multi-use buildings proposed will be community hubs with opportunities for wide ranging uses.	
<p>A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language A society that promotes and protects culture, heritage and the Welsh language, and which encourages people to participate in the arts, and sports and recreation.</p>	The primary focus of the planned project is the goal of increasing the number of Welsh speakers by 2050.	
<p>A globally responsible Wales A nation which, when doing anything to improve the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales, takes account of whether doing such a thing may make a positive contribution to global well-being.</p>	The building will be environmentally and economically focused on effective global approaches.	

Section 3		Will your project / activity affect people or groups of people with protected characteristics? Explain what will be done to maximise any positive impacts or minimise any negative impacts	
Protected characteristics	Will your project / activity have any positive impacts on those with a protected characteristic?	Will your project / activity have any negative impacts on those with a protected characteristic?	Is there any way to maximise any positive impacts or minimise any negative impacts?
Age:	Yes	Yes	
Gender reassignment:	Not known	No	
Marriage or civil partnership:	Yes	No	
Pregnancy or maternity:	Yes	No	
Race:	Yes	No	
Religion or Belief:	Not known	No	
Race:	Yes	No	
Sex:	Yes	No	
Welsh Language:	Yes	No	The main focus of the proposed accommodation is to increase the number of Welsh-medium childcare places in the identified areas of the borough.

Section 4	Identify decision meeting for Project/activity e.g. Cabinet, Council or delegated decision taken by Executive Members and/or Chief Officers
Cabinet	
Compiling Officers Name:	Tina Haddon
Compiling Officers Job Title:	Early Years and Childcare Team Manager
Date completed:	20/11/18