

## CAPITAL PROGRAMME – BIDDING PROCESS

1	Scheme name	21 <sup>st</sup> Century Schools Band B Programme – Secondary School Remodelling Projects
2	Responsible portfolio, department and lead officer	Education Portfolio Lynette Jones, Corporate Director of Education
3	Brief description of scheme	<p>Blaenau Gwent’s 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools Programme is driven by a desire to create a sustainable education system that facilitates high standards of learning, teaching and delivery, catering for the needs of all learners within the County Borough.</p> <p>Blaenau Gwent’s Band B Programme and associated Welsh Government funding allocation were approved by Welsh Government’s Capital Panel in 2017, for which the intervention rate was originally set at 50%. This has recently been revised and the announcement was made in November 2018, that Welsh Government’s intervention rate for capital funded projects within Band B of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools and Education Programme, will be increased to 65%. Each project within the programme will be subject to a detailed business case (The HM Treasury, 5 Case Business Model 2018), along with the required statutory processes in line with the Welsh Government School Organisation Code Version 2 (2018).</p> <p>The Council remains committed to the provision of high quality education for all children and young people. Progress to raise educational standards has been made, however, there is still much more to be done to further improve pupil outcomes and wellbeing across the County Borough. It is, therefore, explicit within the Council’s 21st Century Schools Strategic Outline Programme (SOP), that a fundamental review of the school estate is required to transform education standards across the County Borough.</p> <p>The Vision for Education (2017) in Blaenau Gwent is to improve pupil attainment, achievement and wellbeing through the transformation of schools and learning environments that meet 21st Century expectations and are in line with nationally recognised Welsh Government priorities. The endorsed vision is based upon a school-led, self-improving system. Blaenau Gwent’s vision for education is firmly aligned to the revised 21st Century Schools investment objectives detailed below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Investment Objective 1:</b> to raise standards and achievement in line with localised targets at foundation phase, KS2, KS3 and KS4; and secure improved</li> </ul>

transition into post 16 learning.

- **Investment Objective 2:** to create a sustainable model for the 21st Century school estate in consideration of both capital and revenue investment, along with the condition and suitability of buildings.
- **Investment Objective 3:** to establish effective management and provision of school places, by having the right schools in the right place at the right time.
- **Investment Objective 4:** to implement the 21st Century Schools Programme in line with local, regional and national school organisation policy; ensuring synergy between progression, development and implementation.
- **Investment Objective 5:** meeting the needs of vulnerable learners.

Welsh Government has been clear in terms of the focus of and their expectation that the Band B programme will address condition and suitability in schools. Education work closely with partners in Technical Services, Finance, Planning, and the Diocesan Directors of Education etc.; in order to establish 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools Programme priorities. The assessment is based upon on an in-depth analysis of:

- condition and suitability;
- maintenance and repair;
- pupil place planning and admissions data;
- school capacities and plans;
- live birth data; and,
- regional school organisation plans etc.

This information is then considered in line with learning from the Band A Programme, and the cost/ size models Welsh Government propose aligned to new school builds, remodelling, fixtures, fittings and equipment. Plans need to be realistic, affordable and the best option for the school(s) in question. For example, consideration needs to be given to the most suitable solution (new build versus remodelling), the associated cost model and the timeframe within which it is achievable.

Overall Building Condition and Suitability Ratings 2017/18:

	A	B	B/C	C	D
<b>Primary (19 Schools – 19 buildings)</b>					
Condition		11 58%	0	7 (37%)	1 (5%)
Suitability	3	5	11		

	(16%)	(26%)	(58%)		
<b>Secondary (2 schools – 2 buildings)</b>					
Condition				2 (100%)	
Suitability		2 (100%)			
<b>Middle (2 schools - 7 buildings)</b>					
Condition	3 (43%)	1 (14%)		3 (43%)	
Suitability	3 (43%)	1 (14%)		3 (43%)	
<b>Special (2 schools- 4 buildings)</b>					
Condition	2 (50%)	2 (50%)			
Suitability	4 (100%)				

The condition and suitability programme for the 2018/19 academic session, is currently being planned for implementation between January 2018 and January 2019. This will also inform the prioritisation of projects within Band B and C of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools Programme, along with potential further school organisation priorities, minor and planned works programmes etc.

The Blaenau Gwent Band B Programme spans the period 2019 – 2024. encompasses the following priority projects:

- Priority 1 - Secondary School/Phase Re-modelling
- Priority 2 (i) - 360 Place Primary Ebbw Fawr Valley
- Priority 2 (ii) - Welsh Medium Seedling
- Priority 2 (iii) – Primary School Refurbishment (in line with the availability of funding post creation of the new 360 place primary in the Ebbw Fawr valley)

Blaenau Gwent Council’s Band B Programme aims to deliver the following in line with key strategic priorities at both a national and local level:

- Community benefits - in terms of the creation of jobs, apprenticeships, work experience opportunities, supporting local business development and community investment, in accordance with Welsh Government’s Community Benefit Toolkit. The Education

Transformation team has been working with officers within the Regeneration team, planning approaches to further develop the management and identification of community benefits within its projects and schemes. Improved project engagement and participation programmes for children, young people, staff and communities; is a key focus, in supporting stakeholder buy-in and satisfaction.

- Create innovative, flexible education facilities that contribute to improving social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being within Blaenau Gwent and across the region.
- Reduce class sizes and raise standards of education, in facilitating improved outcomes throughout the pupil population.
- Work closely with Further Education, training providers etc. to facilitate the development of curriculum options and opportunities that secure effective learning pathways and post 16 opportunities for Blaenau Gwent learners.
- Look to maximise education facility usage for community gain – by working with schools and private, third sector organisations; to support the development of family engagement, wider-learning, play, parenting and other opportunities.
- Address the latent demand within the Tredegar Sirhowy valley for Welsh-medium primary provision, and work towards supporting and promoting the growth of Welsh-medium provision in line with:
  - the Blaenau Gwent WESP (2017-20);
  - Welsh Government's Vision for 1 Million Welsh Speakers by 2050; and,
  - CSGA requirements, supporting progression towards the Government's target of 30% of the children in Wales receiving their education through the medium of Welsh by 2031.
- Develop foundation phase and primary provision that supports the needs of all families in Blaenau Gwent. Ensuring effective processes are in place supporting families to access early years' education and childcare settings/ provision; in supporting smooth and effective transition into nursery, whilst also ensuring consistent access to wrap-around provision in meeting the needs of parents. The aim is to ensure that childcare options are sufficient in supporting the development of an economically active community. One of the aims of Band B delivery is to explore options for further good practice and the roll-out of co-location models within Blaenau Gwent, in line with the requirements of the Childcare Offer for Wales.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop ICT infrastructure and connectivity that is able to facilitate the delivery of the Digital Competency Framework (DCF). In addition, promoting the use of new technologies and increasing the digital capabilities of schools and pupils.</li> </ul> <p>The timeline for the delivery of secondary school re-modelling is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Business case submission:</b> Autumn-term 2020</li> <li>• <b>Project brief development:</b> January 2021</li> <li>• <b>Tender document preparation/ detailed design work:</b> May – July 2021</li> <li>• <b>Out to tender:</b> November 2021 (4-6 weeks)</li> <li>• <b>Contractor appointment:</b> May 2022</li> <li>• <b>Commencement:</b> Summer-term 2022</li> <li>• (1 year construction period per/project of which there are 3)</li> <li>• <b>Conclusion:</b> September 2025</li> </ul> <p>WG have confirmed, flexibility in the timeframes for implementation, and therefore, the Council could allocate capital resources from 2024/25 onwards. At present, there is a match funding gap in relation to the priority 1, secondary school remodelling. £5.8 million of WG funding in relation to this priority area has been confirmed; however, the Council will need to generate a further £1.5 million match funding, in order to progress to business case stage as detailed above. This bid requests £750,000 in the period 2024-2025 and £750,000 in 2025-2026 in line with the delivery of the secondary school remodelling projects.</p>									
4	The total capital investment cost of the scheme BGCBC Funding Contribution	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="624 1346 948 1496">Amount Bid for 19/20 to 23/24 £</th> <th data-bbox="948 1346 1195 1496">Amount Bid for 24/25 £</th> <th data-bbox="1195 1346 1560 1496">Amount Bid for 25/26 £</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="624 1496 948 1608"></td> <td data-bbox="948 1496 1195 1608">750,000</td> <td data-bbox="1195 1496 1560 1608">750,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="624 1608 948 1644"></td> <td data-bbox="948 1608 1195 1644"></td> <td data-bbox="1195 1608 1560 1644"></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Amount Bid for 19/20 to 23/24 £	Amount Bid for 24/25 £	Amount Bid for 25/26 £		750,000	750,000			
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	750,000	750,000									
5	Evidence that the scheme is linked to the Council's Corporate Plan (2018-2022)	<p>The Council's Corporate Improvement Plan has the following strategic priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An Efficient Council</li> <li>• Education</li> <li>• Social Services</li> <li>• Strong and Environmentally Smart Communities</li> <li>• Economic Development and Regeneration</li> </ul>									

The Council's 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools programme will contribute to meeting both of these priorities, but particularly raising educational standards. The Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) identifies the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools programme as the top priority, which resulted in a £20.25 million investment into the school estate during the period of 2014-2019 through Band A.

The 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools programme also heavily contributes to the following aims detailed within the corporate plan:

- To improve pupil outcomes, progress and wellbeing, particularly for our more able and our most vulnerable learners - by creating fit for purpose learning environments that facilitate improved pupil and staff wellbeing; along with effective teaching learning to secure higher levels of attainment and outcomes for learners. Facilitating and managing benefit profiles to maximise opportunities for staff, pupils, parents and the local community.
- To improve the quality of our education services and our school buildings to help learners achieve great outcomes - by improving condition and suitability, along with the overall school environment to facilitate effective teaching and learning and ensure parity across the school estate, region, nation and with FE institutions, training provision etc. improving the breadth and quality of curriculum delivery.
- To continue to support our school leaders to help our pupils achieve their ambitions – by creating fit for purpose learning environments that aid CPD, increase morale, staff retention and development.
- To improve the access to and quality of open spaces for the benefit of our communities, businesses and visitors – develop internal external facilities that work towards engaging the community, local businesses etc.; and support effective community benefit delivery to compliment and advance the ecological environment.
- To work with partners to provide effective employment support and access to skills development – by securing local supply chains in line with contracts and facilitating effective community benefits profiles and projects.
- To develop digital infrastructure and improve connectivity by promoting digital participation - ensuring that the digital infrastructure in schools is developed in line with national standards and sustainability.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To continue our programme of public engagement and respond in a timely and effective way to feedback – via extensive consultation in line with the Welsh Government School Organisation Code Version 2 (2018), whereby stakeholders are able to shape and inform programme and project development, in turn increasing ownership engagement and respect for education and community facilities.</li> <li>• To ensure effective forward financial planning arrangements are in place to support the Council’s financial resilience – by creating a more efficient and sustainable education system, reducing backlog maintenance costs and securing Welsh Government investment within Blaenau Gwent.</li> </ul>
6	Evidence the scheme is a National Priority	<p>The Welsh Government has produced the ‘Taking Wales Forward’ 2016-2021 document, which sets out how the Government intends to deliver more and better jobs through a stronger, fairer economy, improve and reform public services; and build a united, connected and sustainable Wales. Within the Ambitious and Learning section of the document, there is a commitment to invest nearly £2 billion in new and refurbished community schools and college buildings by 2024. The Government commitment has resulted in Welsh Government contacting all Councils across Wales to put forward outline 21st Century Schools Band B proposals for the period 2019/2024.</p> <p>The 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools Programme also contributes towards the Welsh Government Vision for One Million Welsh Speakers by 2050, in line with an increase to Welsh-medium education provision within Blaenau Gwent, which is currently the only local authority area in Wales with one Welsh-medium primary. The programme also looks to facilitate teaching and learning environments that are able to deliver against the Digital Competency Framework (DCF).</p>
7	Details as to whether the scheme addresses mandatory /statutory service needs or discretionary service needs.	<p>Education is a statutory service, which is highly regulated by Estyn who act as Her Majesty’s Inspectorate for Wales.</p> <p>The programme also relates to the following statutory frameworks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act (2015).</li> <li>• School Standards Framework Act (1998)</li> <li>• Health and Safety at Work Act (1974)</li> <li>• ESTYN regulatory framework – Local Government Education Services (LGES)</li> <li>• Local Authority Financial Scheme Regulation (1998)</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Welsh Language Act (1993)</li> <li>• Learner Travel (Wales) Measure (2008)</li> <li>• Equalities Act (2010)</li> <li>• Education Act (2002)</li> <li>• The Education Regulations (2006)</li> <li>• Education Wales Act (2014)</li> <li>• The Building Regulations (2010)</li> </ul>
8	Is the scheme an existing legal/contractual commitment	The Council are contractually obliged to deliver against the 21 <sup>st</sup> Century School Strategic Outline Programme for Band B, submitted and approved by Welsh Government in 2017.
9	<p>Is there any external grant aid or any other funding such as prudential available to fund the project?</p> <p>Are there any similar schemes across the Authority utilising other funding sources?</p>	<p>The Blaenau Gwent Band B Programme and associated Welsh Government funding allocation (for which the intervention rate is set at ), were approved by Welsh Government's Capital Panel in 2017; however, each project within the programme will be subject to a detailed business case, along with statutory processes in line with the Welsh Government School Organisation Code (2013), of which the financial case and match funding contribution is a key component.</p> <p>Welsh Government have already committed £5.8 m in line with Blaenau Gwent's successful Strategic Outline Programme submission, £1.7 m is already allocated within the existing 21<sup>st</sup> century schools funding envelop with a shortfall of £1.5m.</p>
10	<p>Is the scheme of an 'Invest to Save nature or is it likely to generate revenue savings?</p> <p>Conversely is the scheme likely to result in an additional cost pressure to the revenue budget?</p>	<p>Directly no. However, indirectly the remodelling of the three existing schools will generate revenue savings.</p> <p>No</p>
11	To be completed by Accountancy in line with capital strategy : MRP/Interest implications	

**CAPITAL PROGRAMME ADDITIONAL PROFORMA - NATIONAL WELL-BEING GOALS**

Scheme Name	21st Century Schools Band B Programme - Secondary School Remodelling		
Blaenau Gwent Well-being Objectives	Select which Objective your scheme contributes to	Well-being Objective links to National Well-being goals	How will your scheme deliver benefits to the Council's Well-being objectives under the National Well-being goals?
<p><b>Create a better, enhanced environment and infrastructure that will benefit our communities, businesses and visitors</b></p>	<p>X</p>	<p>A prosperous Wales</p> <p>A healthier Wales</p> <p>A Wales of cohesive communities</p>	<p>High quality education is a fundamental pre-requisite of ensuring future local and national prosperity through the provision of an informed and well-educated community, workforce and society. The Local Authority's statutory role to provide school places and to monitor and evaluate school performance is key to ensuring that all schools provide high quality education provision. The 21st Century Schools Band B Programme will aim to improve the overall quality of learner outcomes and will contribute to using resources more effectively for pupils. In addition, the programme will</p>
<p><b>Continue to improve learner outcomes and well-being so that all children and young people thrive and realise their full potential</b></p>	<p>X</p>	<p>A healthier Wales</p> <p>A more equal Wales</p> <p>A Wales of cohesive communities</p> <p>A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh Language</p>	<p>The 21st Century Band B Programme will provide facilities to enhance physical and emotional wellbeing for all pupils in the County Borough. A key part of the school curriculum is the development of pupils physical and mental well-being. The Council delivers the Healthy Schools programme to schools as a part of the National Heathy Schools framework. The Band B Programme will work to secure improved pupil wellbeing. The monitoring and evaluation of pupil progress against their expected academic performance is an anticipated benefit of the programme that will be</p>
<p><b>We will be a modern, smart Authority, providing leadership to enable people and communities to thrive</b></p>	<p>X</p>	<p>A prosperous Wales</p> <p>A resilient Wales</p> <p>A Wales of cohesive communities</p> <p>A globally responsible Wales</p>	<p>Ensuring high quality education is fundamental to securing the economic, social and the cultural wellbeing of future generations. The Local Authority monitoring, evaluation and intervention programme ensures that schools requiring support are identified so that support and focus can be targeted at appropriate schools. The Band B Programme will include focus on social, environmental and cultural well-being, and these aspects of the curriculum will be monitored as a part of the school's development plan. The Programme will also secure community benefits i.e. training, employment</p>
<p><b>Take a preventative and early intervention approach to support the most vulnerable ensuring, where appropriate, they are protected and supported to achieve personal outcomes and well-being</b></p>	<p>X</p>	<p>A healthier Wales</p> <p>A more equal Wales</p> <p>A Wales of cohesive communities</p>	<p>The 21st Century Schools Band B Programme will support some of Blaenau Gwent's most vulnerable learners. Local Authority monitoring activity through the EAS Challenge Adviser work includes criteria relating specifically to pupils' socio economic backgrounds, such as pupils receiving Free School Meals. The Band B Programme will contribute directly to preventative approaches and ensuring that all pupils fulfil their potential, via the development and creation of fit for purpose learning environments, developed and informed by stakeholder engagement programmes, and in</p>
<p><b>Maximise the employability of local people through skills development at a local and regional level</b></p>	<p>X</p>	<p>A prosperous Wales</p> <p>A resilient Wales</p> <p>A healthier Wales</p> <p>A more equal Wales</p> <p>A globally responsible Wales</p>	<p>The 21st Century Schools Programme is primarily driven by a requirement to improve learner outcomes and the provision of quality teaching/learning environments for pupils. The programme also promotes well-connected communities. All schools are required to ensure appropriate health and safety and safeguarding arrangements are in place. The programme will also develop employability links with local communities and industries via community benefits and the creation of sustainable education environments that aid staff, pupil, parent and community development.</p>
<p><b>Enabling older people to feel valued and empowered to maximise their independence and lead healthy and engaged lives</b></p>	<p>X</p>	<p>A healthier Wales</p> <p>A more equal Wales</p> <p>A Wales of cohesive communities</p>	<p>The programme will promote community engagement and intergenerational projects and opportunities aligned to the development and remodelling of school buildings. The teaching and learning environments with facilities work with children, young people and families, many of whom are disadvantaged, to support their development and independence.</p>
<p><b>Support citizens to take an active and empowered role in their communities to provide resilience</b></p>	<p>X</p>	<p>A prosperous Wales</p> <p>A resilient Wales</p> <p>A more equal Wales</p> <p>A Wales of cohesive communities</p>	<p>Ensuring high quality education is fundamental to securing the economic, social and cultural wellbeing of empowered and resilient citizens. The Local Authority monitoring, evaluation and intervention programme ensures that schools requiring support are identified so that support and focus can be targeted at appropriate schools. The programme will facilitate social, environmental and cultural well-being, and these aspects of the curriculum will be monitored as a part of the school development plans. Moreover, all schools, are required to promote Welsh culture and heritage through the</p>

## Sustainable Development

How does your scheme fit the '5 Sustainable Ways of Working'? (give details)	
Thinking in the Long Term	The 21st Century Schools Programme aims to create a sustainable education system within Blaenau Gwent, whilst delivery medium to long-term benefits for pupils, staff, parents and local communities.
Taking an Integrated Approach	The Programme seeks to fully integrate and immerse learners, parents and partners in the learner journey, from early years to further education.
Involving People	Statutory Consultation and ongoing stakeholder engagement is a key focus of programme delivery, securing involvement of staff, pupils, parents and the local community.
Collaborating	A fully collaborative approach is required in line with programme and project delivery i.e. childcare, schools, families, community groups etc.
Prevention	The programme takes a preventative approach in the sense that it improves and secures the condition and suitability of education facilities and systems within Blaenau Gwent

## National Well-being Goals Description

<b>A prosperous Wales</b>	<i>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.</i>	4
<b>A resilient Wales</b>	<i>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).</i>	3
<b>A healthier Wales</b>	<i>A society in which people's physical and mental well-being is maximised and in which choices and behaviours that benefit future health are understood.</i>	5
<b>A more equal Wales</b>	<i>A society that enables people to fulfil their potential no matter what their background or circumstances (including their socio economic background and circumstances).</i>	5
<b>A Wales of cohesive communities</b>	<i>Attractive, viable, safe and well-connected communities.</i>	6
<b>A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh Language</b>	<i>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.</i>	1
<b>A globally responsible Wales</b>	<i>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.</i>	2