

CAPITAL PROGRAMME – BIDDING PROCESS

1	Scheme name	21 st Century Schools Band B Programme – Welsh-medium Remodelling
2	Responsible portfolio, department and lead officer	Education Portfolio Lynette Jones, Corporate Director of Education
3	Brief description of scheme	<p>In addition to the Band B Programme, the Cabinet Secretary for Finance announced on 16th January 2018 that £30 million (100% funding, with no match requirement from Councils), would be allocated to support capital projects dedicated to and growing Welsh language in education (the grant was to be administered in addition to the capital allocations confirmed in Band B). Proposals were required to create additionality and contribute to meeting the Welsh Government’s aim of one million Welsh speakers by 2050. The grant application process was initiated in March 2018, for return by the 1st June 2018. As Blaenau Gwent is the only Local Authority area in Wales with only 1 Welsh-medium primary school, and therefore, an ambitious bid for £7 million was put forward in securing additionality at primary phase aligned to latent demand identified, particularly within the Tredegar/ Sirhowy valley.</p> <p>Blaenau Gwent Council’s Education Directorate received confirmation in October 2018, that they were successful in securing £6 million from the Welsh medium capital grant. The grant has been awarded in line with the growth of the seedling school proposed under Band B (which includes the creation of a nursery and reception in the first instance comprised of 24 places each, then growing to incorporate years 1-4), along with the development of a new 210 place Welsh-medium primary school in the Tredegar/Sirhowy valley, which will accommodate seedling pupils moving forward.</p> <p>The original submission by Blaenau Gwent also included remodelling works to Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Helyg, which would address resource space development in securing additional capacity, along with improved condition and suitability ratings. This was initially a project within the Band A Programme, which was later re-profiled due to the capacity of the school to support remodelling works at a time when their primary focus was school improvement. Due to the condition and suitability aspects of this project, it was felt by Welsh Government Capital Panel that this project would be better suited to the 21st Century Schools Programme, as opposed to the Welsh-medium grant, which aims to create additionality.</p> <p>The remodelling project would improve the profile of Ysgol</p>

Gymraeg Bro Helyg within Blaenau Gwent in increasing the demand for and uptake of Welsh-medium education and creating a sustainable Welsh-medium education system, which is one of the key targets of the Blaenau Gwent Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2017- 20. It is also important to ensure that there is parity between the teaching and learning environments in the current and new school.

The proposed remodelling work would address the need to adapt and develop the outdoor learning and play areas, along with key internal resource spaces and classrooms. Therefore, this bid promotes the growth of the pupil population and raising standards of teaching and learning, along with improving pupil outcomes. It would also allow for improved nurture provision and parent/community engagement in promoting and increasing demand for Welsh-medium education. Moreover, the proposal would look to secure improved ICT and media resources aligned which in line with recent research, is one of the leading employment routes associated with Welsh language. The works would include:

- Internal building re-modelling/improvements
- Outdoor learning and play provision development
- Investment in ICT, FF&E

Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Helyg has been through a transition period over the last 3 years. In the March 2015 Estyn inspection, the schools performance and prospects for improvement were considered to be unsatisfactory and as such the school was placed in special measures. The follow-up Estyn visit in November 2016, determined that that school had made significant progress, resulting in Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Helyg being removed from the list of schools in need of special measures. During this period the school was categorised under the National Schools Categorisation System as a red school. Over the last few years the categorisation has changed from red, to amber, and now to yellow in 2018.

The Estyn report and categorisation of the school both resulted in a significant decrease in the pupil population between 2015 and 2017. Pupil numbers dropped from 248 in 2015, to 232 in 2016, reaching an all-time low of 225 in 2017. The pupil population, however, has and continues to increase with 256 pupils on roll as at September 2017. With the addition of concessionary transport for nursery pupils - in line with the Council's Home to School and Post 16 Transport Policy (2018); the provision of full time nursery from September 2017; and the development of Welsh-medium childcare settings within the valley (one of which is co-located provision), the school is becoming a more attractive proposition for parents –

particularly those who reside within the Ebbw Fach Valley.

Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Helyg's results show an upward trend for the last 3 years with results in 2017 comparing very favourably with both LA and Wales results.

Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Helyg will continue to strive to improve the +1 levels moving forward, which the proposed remodelling improvements would look to enhance, via the development of the teaching and learning environment. The Headteacher, Council and Blaenau Gwent Welsh Education Forum (WEF), are committed to working together to raise the school's profile in line with the schools improvement journey. The aim of this work will be to diminish the historical perceptions of Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Helyg.

As previously outlined, the school was initially programmed for remodelling works via the Band A 21st Century Schools Programme; however, during this time the school needed to focus on planning and development in line with the 2015 Estyn inspection.

The timeline for the delivery of Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Helyg remodelling project is:

- **Business case:** Spring-term 2019 (BCSG 6th March 2019 and CP 20th March 2019)
- **Project brief development:** January 2019
- **Tender document preparation/ detailed design work:** May – July 2019
- **Out to tender:** Mid-August 2019 (4-6 weeks)
- **Contractor appointment:** Early October 2019
- **Commencement:** October 2019
- **Conclusion:** August 2020

In order to secure the £1m required to undertake the remodelling works, the Council would need to generate £350,000 of match funding, which would enable us to bid for the additional funding from Welsh Government in line with the 21st Century Schools Band B Programme. Therefore, this bid requests £350,000 in the period 2019- 2020 in line with the delivery of Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Helyg remodelling project.

4	The total capital investment cost of the scheme BGCBC Funding Contribution	Amount Bid for 19/20 to 23/24 £ 350,000	Amount Bid for 24/25 £	Amount Bid for 25/26 £

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"> • An efficient Council • Education • Social Services • Strong and Environmentally Smart Communities • Economic Development and Regeneration <p>The Council's 21st Century Schools Programme and proposal remodelling project will contribute to meeting both of these priorities, but particularly raising educational standards. The Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) identifies the 21st 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.</p> <p>The 21st Century Schools programme also heavily contributes to the following aims detailed within the corporate plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 and external facilities that work towards engaging the community, local businesses etc.;

		<p>and support effective community benefit delivery to compliment and advance the ecological environment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. • 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. • 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.
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 21st 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	<p>Details as to whether the scheme addresses mandatory /statutory service needs or discretionary service needs.</p>	<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"> • Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act (2015). • School Standards Framework Act (1998) • Health and Safety at Work Act (1974) • ESTYN regulatory framework – Local Government Education Services (LGES) • Local Authority Financial Scheme Regulation (1998) • Welsh Language Act (1993) • Learner Travel (Wales) Measure (2008) • Equalities Act (2010) • Education Act (2002) • The Education Regulations (2006) • Education Wales Act (2014) • The Building Regulations (2010)
8	<p>Is the scheme an existing legal/contractual commitment</p>	<p>The Council are contractually obliged to deliver against the 21st Century School Strategic Outline Programme for Band B, submitted and approved by Welsh Government in 2017.</p>
9	<p>Is there any external grant aid or any other funding such as prudential available to fund the project? 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 now set at 65%), were approved by Welsh Government Capital Panel in 2017. 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. The allocation of £350,000 match by Blaenau Gwent, would allow us to submit a business case for the £1m project.</p>
10	<p>Is the scheme of an 'Invest to Save nature or is it likely to generate revenue savings? 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 existing school will generate revenue savings.</p> <p>No</p>
11	<p>To be completed by Accountancy in line with capital strategy : MRP/Interest implications</p>	

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>Create a better, enhanced environment and infrastructure that will benefit our communities, businesses and visitors</p>	X	<p style="text-align: center;">A prosperous Wales</p> <p style="text-align: center;">A healthier Wales</p> <p style="text-align: center;">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>Continue to improve learner outcomes and well-being so that all children and young people thrive and realise their full potential</p>	X	<p style="text-align: center;">A healthier Wales</p> <p style="text-align: center;">A more equal Wales</p> <p style="text-align: center;">A Wales of cohesive communities</p> <p style="text-align: center;">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>We will be a modern, smart Authority, providing leadership to enable people and communities to thrive</p>	X	<p style="text-align: center;">A prosperous Wales</p> <p style="text-align: center;">A resilient Wales</p> <p style="text-align: center;">A Wales of cohesive communities</p> <p style="text-align: center;">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>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</p>	X	<p style="text-align: center;">A healthier Wales</p> <p style="text-align: center;">A more equal Wales</p> <p style="text-align: center;">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>Maximise the employability of local people through skills development at a local and regional level</p>	X	<p style="text-align: center;">A prosperous Wales</p> <p style="text-align: center;">A resilient Wales</p> <p style="text-align: center;">A healthier Wales</p> <p style="text-align: center;">A more equal Wales</p> <p style="text-align: center;">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>Enabling older people to feel valued and empowered to maximise their independence and lead healthy and engaged lives</p>	X	<p style="text-align: center;">A healthier Wales</p> <p style="text-align: center;">A more equal Wales</p> <p style="text-align: center;">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>Support citizens to take an active and empowered role in their communities to provide resilience</p>	X	<p style="text-align: center;">A prosperous Wales</p> <p style="text-align: center;">A resilient Wales</p> <p style="text-align: center;">A more equal Wales</p> <p style="text-align: center;">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

A prosperous Wales	<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
A resilient Wales	<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
A healthier Wales	<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
A more equal Wales	<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
A Wales of cohesive communities	<i>Attractive, viable, safe and well-connected communities.</i>	6
A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh Language	<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
A globally responsible Wales	<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