

**Report to:** Communities Scrutiny Committee

**Date of Meeting:** 26<sup>th</sup> June 2014

**Lead Member/Officer:** Lead Member for Education/  
Head of Customers and Education Support

**Report Author:** Head of Customers and Education Support

**Title:** Modernising Education Programme

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**1. What is the report about?**

The Head of Customers and Education Support will provide a verbal update to the meeting on the progress of the Modernising Education Programme. Attached as an appendix is the draft financial programme for the wider Modernising Education. This illustrates the Council's 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools Programme together with options for wider investment.

**2. What is the reason for making this report?**

The Council is progressing an ambitious programme for investment in the school estate. The verbal update will allow Members to review current progress prior to the next stage of work for the programme being presented to Cabinet on the 29<sup>th</sup> July.

**3. What are the Recommendations?**

Members are asked to comment the current position and where appropriate to make recommendations to Cabinet.

**4. How does the decision contribute to the Corporate Priorities?**

The proposal will support the corporate priority of "improving performance in education and the quality of our school buildings".

**5. What will it cost and how will it affect other services?**

The overall cost of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools Programme is £73.4m and provisional allocations have been made by Denbighshire for its overall 50% contribution. The remaining 50% will be accessed via the Welsh Government and approvals have been received for 3 of the 5 projects to date. The Corporate Plan also included an aim to invest a further £23m on implementing our area reviews, refurbishments and other improvements to schools.

**6. What are the main conclusions of the Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) undertaken on the decision? The completed EqIA template should be attached as an appendix to the report.**

This report is for information at this stage and therefore no EqIA has been undertaken.

**7. What consultations have been carried out with Scrutiny and others?**

The options for investment for 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools has previously been approved by Cabinet and discussed with Scrutiny. This report is the first stage of prioritising additional capital expenditure.

**8. Chief Finance Officer Statement**

The report highlights the aspiration to invest in a significant school improvement programme. The figures quoted need to be reviewed to take account of the latest assumptions in respect of both internal and external funding, costs and cash-flow. Future internal contributions will have to be assessed as part of the annual budget round.

**9. What risks are there and is there anything we can do to reduce them?**

There are a number of risks currently being managed at a programme level by the Modernising Education Programme Board. All individual projects will include risk management procedures.

**10. Power to make the Decision**

The proposals are in accordance with the Modernising Education Policy Framework.

Articles 6.3.2(b) and 6.3.4(b) of the Council's Constitution set out Scrutiny's powers with respect to this matter.

**Contact Officer:**

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