

Report To:	Cabinet
Date of Meeting:	18 th July 2017
Lead Member / Officer:	Councillor Huw Hilditch Roberts, Lead Member for Children and Young People / Karen Evans – Head of Education and Children’s Services
Report Author:	Karen Evans – Head of Education and Children’s Services
Title:	21 st Century Schools Programme – Band B Proposals

1. What is the report about?

The report seeks approval for the submission of the Band B proposals to the Welsh Government for consideration.

2. What is the reason for making this report?

A decision is required on whether the Strategic Outline Programme for investment in 21st Century Schools should be submitted to the Welsh Government.

3. What are the Recommendations?

3.1 That the draft Strategic Outline Programme for the 21st Century Schools and Education Programme be submitted to the Welsh Government.

3.2 That the Committee confirms that it has read, understood and taken account of the Well-being Impact Assessment (Appendix 3) as part of its consideration.

4. Report details

4.1 Denbighshire schools have benefited over the last 7 years from significant investment in the school estate via the 21st Century Schools and Education Programme which has been delivered in partnership between the Welsh Government and Denbighshire County Council.

4.2 The Welsh Government have invited all Local Authorities and Further Education Institutions to submit their intended programmes for future Capital Investment by the end of July 2017. This will enable the Welsh Government over the coming months to determine the overall programme for Wales which is expected to be of the value of approximately of £1.7 billion should all funding sources be maximised.

4.3 The Council prior to Christmas submitted its aspirational outline proposals for Band B of the 21st Century Schools and Education Programme to the Welsh Government on the 10th December. The Welsh Government have confirmed in May 2017 that the intervention rate will be 50/50 for traditional capital projects and 75% Welsh

Government / 25% Local Authority for projects to be funded via the alternative “Mutual Investment Model”. This model will see the maintenance and management costs of the school over a 25 year period being included in the overall project costs. Any schemes which involve Voluntary Aided schools will be funded at an intervention rate of 85% by Welsh Government and 15% by the Voluntary Aided body.

- 4.4 The proposals from Denbighshire have been drafted on the need to continue the theme of proposals emerging from Area Reviews. Appendix 1 (not attached) details the outcomes of the reviews to date and the next priority review areas have been identified for the Denbigh and Rhyl areas as outlined below:-.

	Project	DCC	WG	VA	Total
1	Denbigh - Review of Provision inc. YPB	£10.9m	£23.6m	£2.2m	£36.7m
2	Rhyl Primary Provision	£5.15m	£5.15m		£10.3m
3	Centre to provide additional pastoral support for pupils	£3.95m	£3.95m		£7.9m
4	Review of Llangollen Provision	£11.9m	£11.9m		£23.8m
5	Extension at Ysgol y Faenol, Bodelwyddan	£900k	£900k		£1.8m

- 4.5 Following confirmation of the proposed intervention rate the Strategic Outline Programme has been drafted for consideration by the Welsh Government (see Appendix 2). At this stage the Council is preparing its Corporate Priorities and confirming any funding that may be identified that might enable some or all of the revised priorities to be delivered. Should investment in schools not be identified as a priority the scale of the Programme will be required to be reduced significantly. The submission of the Strategic Outline Programme includes these caveats within the Financial Case section of the document.

5. How does the decision contribute to the Corporate Priorities?

The Council is presently preparing revised Corporate Priorities which are expected to be confirmed by Council in the autumn. The continued investment in Education would be expected to contribute to the draft priority to ensure that Denbighshire is a place where younger people will want to live and work and they have the skills to do so.

6. What will it cost and how will it affect other services?

The overall submission for Band B would cost Denbighshire £32m as illustrated in paragraph 4.4. The funding for the Band A proposals came from a mixture of savings through the school organisation process and more significantly from corporate savings which were re-invested into the Corporate Priorities.

Should the proposals be progressed the development of the Programme would continue to have workstreams for other teams within the Council in particularly

Design, Construction and Maintenance. The costs of these teams are absorbed in the overall outline costs.

- 7. What are the main conclusions of the Well-being Impact Assessment? The completed Well-being Impact Assessment report can be downloaded from the [website](#) and should be attached as an appendix to the report**

The Well-being Impact Assessment has led to the following conclusions:-

The development of a programme for investment for 21st Century Schools should have a positive impact on Denbighshire. The construction phase will lead to increased investment in local companies and improve employment prospects. Site selection may have a negative impact on a resilient Denbighshire and this will need to be carefully considered. The provision of modern buildings should impact positively on a healthier and equal Denbighshire whilst providing an opportunity for a more cohesive community. The impact on Welsh Language will be guided by where investment is made.

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

The initial aspirational list was identified following an informal meeting with Councillors in December 2016 prior to the submission of the list to the Welsh Government.

- 9. Chief Finance Officer Statement**

The priorities have been suggested for Band B based on need. Currently, no funding has been agreed to support the council's contribution and this is reflected in the submission to the Welsh Government. The intervention rate has remained at 50:50 for most schemes within Band B which limits the scope from the Council's perspective. As the new council develops its priorities, it may decide to identify resources to support 21st Century Schools as part of that process, though the resources identified so far in support of corporate priorities would not be sufficient to fund all of programme identified. Members however will have choices to make as part of budget rounds and could elect to identify additional funding to support 21st Century Schools, but this would generate an additional budget pressure within the Medium Term Financial Plan. So far, proposals for Band B do not include assumptions around future closures and the recycling of budget to fund investment in new schools. The Welsh Government has developed an additional option to fund new build schools called the Mutual Investment Model. The merits and suitability of this model are still being assessed.

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

The current Modernising Education Programme includes clear procedures for the management and escalation of risks at both the Programme and Project level. Should the programme be progressed these procedures would continue. The risks associated with the reduction in the programme would mainly impact two areas. By accepting the risk around maintaining poor or life expired buildings the costs around

maintenance are expected to increase over time. For pupils in such buildings their learning opportunities may be impacted upon.

11. Power to make the Decision

Section 14 of the Education Act 1996 places a duty on local authorities to secure sufficient schools for providing primary and secondary education.