



Report of the Cabinet Member for Education and Learning

Cabinet – 21 March 2024

New Dining Facilities to Support the Universal Free School Meals Programme Together with an All-Weather Pitch and Community Facilities for Townhill Community Primary School

Purpose:	To comply with Financial Procedure Rule No 7 (Capital Programming and Appraisals) to commit and authorise schemes in the Capital programme.
Policy Framework:	Financial Procedure Rules
Consultation:	Education, Finance, Legal Services, Corporate Building Services, Corporate Property Services, Access to Services
Recommendation(s):	It is recommended that: 1) The capital scheme for £3,257,071, for new dining facilities to support the Universal Free School Meals programme together with an all-weather pitch and community facilities for Townhill Community Primary School is approved, subject to Welsh Government approval to slip the allocated grant funding of £500k into the next financial year.
Report Author:	Louise Herbert-Evans
Finance Officer:	Ben Smith
Legal Officer:	Caritas Adere
Access to Services Officer:	Rhian Millar

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Welsh Government (WG) announced in December 2021 its intention to extend free school meals to all primary school pupils. The expectation was that the roll out would be phased and complete in 2024, although this has now been extended into 2025.

- 1.2 In the case of Townhill Community Primary School all available options have been explored to enable the provision of universal free school meals (uFSM) at the school, as the existing facilities are inadequate to cater for the increased number of pupils benefiting from uFSM.
- 1.3 The preferred way forward includes for the demolition of the existing canteen build and new build with net zero operational carbon.
- 1.4 The total capital cost of the project is £2,859,271, based on benchmarking rates.
- 1.5 The council has benefitted from two grant awards for capital expenditure on the school meal infrastructure as follows:
- | | |
|------------|------------|
| 24/02/2022 | £1,804,997 |
| 30/08/2022 | £2,526,996 |
| Total | £4,331,993 |
- 1.6 An allowance of £500,00 was made for this school, which meant that there was a funding shortfall of £2,359,271. Consequently, a Business Justification was submitted to WG seeking additional funding of £2,359,271 to support this project, and this was approved in June 2023.
- 1.7 The school also has its own proposed project to provide a new all-weather pitch which is to be funded by the school and other grant funding that the school has secured. It is also supported with an allocation from the Community Focussed Schools grant with a total value for this element of works of £397,800.
- 1.8 It is therefore proposed to deliver the two projects totalling £3,257,071 as a single project which should deliver better value for money and align the schools' community pitch project with the uFSM project, which will provide an opportunity to deliver additional community benefits through the Community Focused Schools grant.

2. Description of the project

- 2.1 The objectives of the project are to;
- Enable the rollout of the uFSM programme in providing sufficient and suitable dining and kitchen facilities at the school.
 - Optimise the benefits from this project through alignment of a separate grant for the installation of an all-weather pitch.
 - Deliver additional community benefits through use of the Community Focused Schools grant.
- 2.2 The proposed scheme includes the demolition of the school's existing kitchen and canteen facility, which will be replaced with new stand-alone kitchen and dining hall. The kitchen will be sufficient and suitable to cater for the uFSM programme at Townhill Community Primary School. The

dining hall will be designed to accommodate community use of the facility out of school hours.

- 2.3 The project includes the provision of an all-weather pitch, and the layout, access, fencing and mechanical and electrical arrangements will be designed so that community use is possible, and the pitch and dining facility can be made available for community use outside of school hours without requiring access to the main school site and buildings.
- 2.4 The concept design and cost profile for the works at Townhill Community Primary School have been developed by Corporate Building Services. MACE Limited, was appointed in July 2023 to develop the project to RIBA Stage two, before it is tendered as a two-stage design and build (D&B) construction contract, utilising contractors via an existing and established Framework operated by Swansea Council. The contractor will develop the RIBA Stage 3 and 4 design and submit the necessary planning applications. At the end of RIBA Stage 4 and following obtaining planning consent the D&B contractor will be appointed for Stage 2 – design finalisation and construction.
- 2.5 In line with the Welsh Government’s long-term commitment towards carbon reduction and net zero public sector buildings the project will be required to demonstrate carbon reduction techniques and technologies and achieve Net Zero Carbon Operational as well as meeting the relevant target for embodied carbon.
- 2.6 The current project plan and timescale for delivery is below;

Townhill Primary School	
Feasibility Stage – consultant appointment	July 2023
RIBA Stage 2 - concept stage	October 2023 – November 2023
RIBA Stage 3 - design development	November 2023 – December 2023
Planning period	December 2023 – February 2024
SUDs application	(in parallel with above)
RIBA Stage 4 – detailed design	February 2024 – March 2024
Tender Period including appointment	March 2024 – June 2024
Contractor appointment	June 2024 – July 2024
PBA/Bond	June 2024 – July 2024
Start on site / Set up	July 2024
Construction end	April 2025

3. Integrated Assessment Implications

The Council is subject to the Equality Act (Public Sector Equality Duty and the socio-economic duty), the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure, and must in the exercise of their functions, have due regard to the need to:

- Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Acts.
- Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- Deliver better outcomes for those people who experience socio-economic disadvantage.
- Consider opportunities for people to use the Welsh language.
- Treat the Welsh language no less favourably than English.
- Ensure that the needs of the present are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

3.1 The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 mandates that public bodies in Wales must carry out sustainable development. Sustainable development means the process of improving the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales by taking action, in accordance with the sustainable development principle, aimed at achieving the 'well-being goals'.

3.2 Our Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) process ensures we have paid due regard to the above. It also takes into account other key issues and priorities, such as poverty and social exclusion, community cohesion, carers, the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) and Welsh language.

3.3 An IIA screening has been undertaken and it has been determined that the programme does not require a full IIA report.

3.4 The extension of free school meals to all primary school pupils is a WG commitment, and below is an extract from the written statement of Jeremy Miles, Minister for Education and Welsh Language on the policy:

“Our ambitions are informed by our understanding that younger children are more likely to be living in relative income poverty and, in taking this action, an additional 196,000 children will become eligible to take up the offer of a Free School Meal in Wales. Our commitment, therefore, represents a transformational intervention and an important further step to reaching our shared ambitions of tackling child poverty and ensuring that no child goes hungry.”

“Evidence also points toward the wider benefits of Free School Meals, including raising the profile of healthy eating across the whole school, increasing the range of food pupils eat, improving social skills at meal times, as well as improvements to behaviour and attainment. More widely, in rolling out this commitment we will be working with partners to increase the supply of Welsh food onto the school plate. This will shorten supply chains and reduce carbon emissions, support local food producers and distributors, and strengthen the Foundational Economy.”

- 3.5 This programme supports the delivery of that statement.
- 3.6 The programme supports in every respect the WFG Act, including supporting a sustainable Swansea, and carbon reduction.
- 3.7 The school's pitch project and the community additionality will help the school to operate and develop as Community Focused School and reach out to engage families and work with the wider community to support all pupils and particularly those disadvantaged by poverty.
- 3.8 All key stakeholders will be communicated with throughout the programme's delivery.

4. Financial Implications

Capital

- 4.1 The council has benefitted from two grant awards for capital expenditure on the school meal infrastructure as follows:

24/02/2022	£1,804,997
30/08/2022	£2,526,996

Total	£4,331,993
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- 4.2 An allowance of £500,000 was made for this school, which meant that there was a funding shortfall of £2,359,271. Consequently, a Business Justification Case (BJC) was submitted to WG seeking additional funding of £2,359,271 to support this project, and this was approved on 5 June 2023. The initial allowance of £500,000 from the allocated grant funding is now the subject of a separate BJC seeking approval to slip the funding into the next financial year.
- 4.3 On the 7 June 2023, WG confirmed approval of the Community Focused Schools additional funding for Townhill Community Primary School with a total allocation of £250,000 from the 2023-2025 grant. In addition, an allocation of £42,000 had already been made from the 2022/23 Community Focussed Schools grant to support the school's project.
- 4.4 This report is seeking authorisation to commit the total available funding of £3,257,071 to the capital programme, for the delivery of the new kitchen and dining facilities to enable delivery of the uFSM programme, together with works to enable community use and an all-weather pitch.

4.5 The total funding requested has been profiled as set out in Appendix A.

Breakdown of funding streams	£
uFSM	2,859,271
uFSM funding budget allocation	500,000
uFSM additional funding award £2,359,271	2,359,271
Pitch	290,017
Community Focussed Schools 22/23, slippage approved	42,000
Community Focussed Schools 23/25. Top up of pitch funding. Grant award received 07/06/2023 (see below)	142,217
Johan Cruyff Foundation grant	56,800
Garfield Weston Foundation grant	20,000
School funding	29,000
Community Focussed Schools additionality	107,783
Community Focussed Schools 23/25.	107,783
Summary	
Total uFSM	2,859,271
Total CFS additionality	107,783
Total MUGA project	290,017
Total	3,257,071

4.6 The spend profile will be monitored and managed within the required financial years. Completion of all the works by the 31 March 2025 is currently achievable.

Revenue

4.7 Where capital funding is used to add additional square meterage to the size of a school, this would lead to an increase in the rates bill for the school and an increase in the delegated budget share, as premises funding is based on gross floor area. In both cases, the increased funding would be found from within the overall delegated schools' budget.

5. Legal Implications

5.1 The Council will need to comply with the terms and conditions attached to any grant funding referred to in this report.

5.2 All contracts for works, goods and services necessary to deliver the programme must be procured in accordance with the Council's Contract Procedure Rules and the relevant EU Regulations as appropriate. The contractual liabilities/obligations of the Council and any appointed contractors will be covered by the individual contracts entered into.

Background Papers:

Capital Programme authorisation for the commitment of funding to support the rollout of Universal Primary Free School Meals – Report of the Director of Education – approved by Cabinet 15 June 2022.

Capital Programme authorisation for the commitment of capital grant funding awarded for Community Focused Schools – Report of the Director of Education – approved by Cabinet 21 July 2022.

Capital Programme Authorisation for the Commitment of Funding to Support the Rollout of Universal Primary Free School Meals - Report of the Cabinet Member for Education & Learning – approved by Cabinet 15 December 2022.

Appendices:

Appendix 1 Financial Implications Summary
Appendix 2 IIA Screening Report

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS: SUMMARY

Portfolio: Education
Service Planning and Resources
Scheme Townhill Primary School

<u>1. CAPITAL COSTS</u>	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	TOTAL
<u>Expenditure</u>	<u>Actual spend</u>	<u>Estimated</u>	<u>Estimated</u>	-	
uFSM	£0.00	£38,000	£2,821,271		£2,859,271
Pitch	£0.00	£42,000	£248,017		£290,017
CFS additionality	£0.00		£107,783		£107,783
EXPENDITURE	£0.00	£80,000	£3,177,071		£3,257,071
<u>Financing</u>					
uFSM funding original budget allocation		£38,000	£462,000		£500,000
uFSM additional funding award			£2,359,271		£2,359,271
Community Focussed Schools 22/23		£42,000			£42,000
Community Focussed Schools 23/25			£250,000		£250,000
Johan Cruyff Foundation grant			£56,800		£56,800
Garfield Weston Foundation grant			£20,000		£20,000
School funding			£29,000		£29,000
FINANCING	£0.00	£80,000	£3,177,071		£3,257,071

<u>2. REVENUE COSTS</u>	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22		TOTAL
	£	£	£		£
<u>Service Controlled - Expenditure</u>					
Employees	) NA	) NA	) NA		0
Maintenance	) NA	) NA	) NA		0
Equipment	) NA	) NA	) NA		0
Administration	) NA	) NA	) NA		0
NET EXPENDITURE	0	0	0		0