

Report of the Cabinet Member for Learning and Skills

Cabinet – 3 June 2014

FLYING START CAPITAL PROGRAMME EXPANSION 2014 - 2016

Purpose:	To outline the capital proposals included in the Strategic Outline Plan submitted to Welsh Government in respect of the expansion of the Flying Start Programme between 2014/15 and 2015/16 (Supplementary Bid) and to award the work to Corporate Building and Property Services
Policy Framework:	One Swansea Plan
Reason for Decision:	<p>To comply with Financial Procedure Rule 7-to approve and include new Capital schemes in the Capital Programme.</p> <p>To seek authorisation to submit Planning applications where appropriate/if required</p> <p>To award contract to Corporate Building and Property Services - To comply with Contract Procedure Rule 1.2.4 - to award a contract.</p>
Consultation:	Education, Poverty, Corporate Building Services, Finance and Legal were consulted.
Recommendation(s):	<p>It is recommended that the Director of People be authorised to: -</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. implement the settings, as detailed in the approved Flying Start Strategic Outline Plan (SOP)2. submit planning applications where appropriate3. authorise that the schemes as detailed, together with their financial implications, be included in the capital programme4. authorise the work to be awarded to Corporate Property and Building Services
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1.0 Background

- 1.1 There has been significant progress to date in relation to Swansea's Flying Start Programme which is rooted in the strategic direction established nationally and locally for the Programme and forms part of the continuum of services and approaches within the wider Prevention and Early Intervention Programme within the Children and Young People Plan and on behalf of the Children & Young People's Partnership.
- 1.2 Flying Start has been in operation in Swansea since 2006 with over 2200 0-3 year olds supported annually via the Programme. It is a multi-agency Programme aimed at improving outcomes for children under four in the identified most deprived target areas. Children and their families living in the targeted areas are eligible to access a menu of services which include additional health visiting above core service/other health enhancing services, parenting programmes and support via delivery of accredited group work programmes and/or 1-2-1 individual interventions, language and play programme and the centrepiece is free, high quality, part-time childcare for all two year olds 2.5 hours a day, 5 days a week 42 weeks of the year. By the end of phase two there will be over 600 child care places in operation.
- 1.3 **Phase 1** of the Programme (2006-2011) was required by Welsh Government to be targeted at the most disadvantaged school catchments in Swansea. In line with WIMD data the target areas were Townhill, Seaview, Blaenymaes, Portmead, Clwyd, Hafod, Waun Wen and Pentrechwyth. Provision for Welsh medium childcare and accessible childcare for disabled children are also provided for eligible 0-3 year olds living in the geographical target areas. The settings in Phase 1 were successfully implemented and are detailed in Appendix A.
- 1.4 **Phase 2** of the Programme (2012–2014) involved a changed criteria (set by Welsh Government) for defining Flying Start areas. Local partnerships were provided with a list of all Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs) ranked in order of deprivation according to the levels of income benefit households (IBHs) with 0-3 year olds. Prior to receiving offer of capital grant from Welsh Government for Phase 2, the Authority had to satisfy Welsh Government on a number of occasions that the expansion of the Programme was fully in line with the ranking of LSOAs determined by IBHs of 0-3 year olds. Phase 2 approved LSOAs and associated settings have been successfully implemented and are detailed in Appendix A.

2.0 Supplementary Bidding Round – Phase 3

- 2.1 The Welsh Government has identified Flying Start as a priority area and as such the Programme across Wales is to be further expanded over the next two financial years.

- 2.2 In August 2013 Local Authorities were asked to complete a Strategic Outline Plan (SOP) for a supplementary bid for Flying Start capital resources to expand the Programme to further geographical targeted areas and to consolidate the programme for Phase 2.
- 2.3 The criteria now prescribed by Welsh Government for new areas directly relate to LSOAs ranked in priority order, determined by Income Deprived Households (IDHHs) where 0-3 year olds live. The basis for targeting this expansion has been agreed by Ministers. On this basis, taking into account the Income Deprived Households (IDHHs) data, the cap of 0-3 year olds set by Welsh Government and the existing Flying Start population, the Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs) included in the bid for Swansea are shown in Appendix B.
- 2.4 To complete Phase 2, 20 childcare places were required for the Pontarddulais 4 LSOA. The small scale expansion Phase 3, would target an additional 244 0-3 year olds annually, This expanded programme would provide an additional **60** childcare places.
- 2.5 However, in order to maximise the impact of the Programme Swansea submitted a bid for over and above the cap number set by WG. WG subsequently requested that bids be scaled back to the original request of 60 childcare places due to funding restraints.
- 2.6 On 17th April, 2014 a formal offer of grant was received from WG approving 36 new childcare places for Phase 3 as well as confirming the 20 childcare places to consolidate Phase 2. The approved schemes are highlighted in Appendix B.

3.0 Service Solution

- 3.1 Building on the Programme to date and taking into account lessons learned and good practice, the preferred way forward would be to, where possible, maximise the use of available space (potential surplus capacity) via re-modelling within existing local primary schools. Of particular interest to Swansea would be continuing to link the Flying Start Programme with the aspirations for 21st Century schools so that the benefits of Flying Start are maximised within primary schools and Community Focussed Schools particularly in relation to the evidenced benefits of transition into the Foundation Phase.
- 3.2 Where the option to remodel existing surplus capacity on primary schools sites is not achievable, “buying-in” the childcare from wider community facilities such as registered playgroups and day nurseries will be explored. This approach was approved by WG on 7th January 2014.
- 3.3 In the case of Morryston 5 LSOA (which was an approved Phase 2 setting), the preferred option for locating Flying Start on a Primary school site has not been achievable, therefore approximately 17

childcare places for this area will need to be procured, or bought in from registered childcare providers.

4.0 Equality and Engagement Implications

- 4.1 An Equality Impact Assessment Screening Form has been completed for the project with the outcome that a full EIA Report was required. This has now been completed and has shown this project will have a positive impact on;

Age – provide an additional good quality childcare places and additional services for 0-3 year olds.

Disability – services will be provided to meet the needs of other key vulnerable groups, such as children with disabilities for which dedicated and integrated options will be available.

Poverty – by virtue of the project's scope and aims.

All key stakeholders will be communicated with throughout the projects delivery.

5.0 Financial Implications

Capital

- 5.1 The total cost of the capital improvement works approved amounts to **£620,000** and will be fully funded by grant from the Welsh Government.
- 5.2 The funding relates to the period April 2014 to March 2015 and must be claimed in full by 31st March 2015 otherwise any unclaimed part of the funding will cease to be available to the City and County of Swansea. The funding available has been profiled as set out in Appendix C.

Revenue

- 5.3 To date WG have not confirmed the revenue allocations for Phase 3 in writing. It is anticipated this will be announced shortly.

6.0 Legal Implications

- 6.1 In line with current arrangements agreements will be in place between Flying Start, the schools and the individual services operating from the setting to ensure clarity of roles and responsibilities relating to the asset.
- 6.2 The grant offer from Welsh Government will contain conditions which are legally binding. The Council must be satisfied that it is able to comply with the same.

- 6.3 Any proposal to “buy – in” childcare provision as outlined in paragraph 3.2 must comply with the Council’s procurement procedures and the Council’s Contract Procedure Rules as relevant.

7.0 Procurement

- 7.1 It is proposed that associated works will be delivered by The City and County of Swansea’s Internal contractor (Corporate Building and Property Services). This approach has previously been approved with external auditors, therefore will fulfil stipulated grant criteria and attain best value throughout the process.

Best value will be demonstrated through a number of means.

All sub contractor elements of work will be tendered accordingly, which in itself will demonstrate best value.

All elements of work which are delivered with internal resources will be benchmarked against rates previously supplied by the internal contractor through a competitive tendering process.

As part of any procurement process, the internal contractor will ensure:

- Purchases of works, goods or services will be made through open competition
- Decisions to purchase goods, services or works will be made with the aim of obtaining value for money
- Sufficient time will be allowed to undertake a proper tendering exercise
- Suppliers and contractors will be treated fairly and in an even handed manner
- A clear and concise documentary audit trail will be kept so the reasoning behind the procurement decision reached is open and transparent.

Background Papers:

Swansea’s Flying Start Strategic Outline Programme, can be viewed at <http://www.cypswansea.co.uk/fssupplementary>

Map of Flying Start Areas (Phase 1,2 and approved Phase 3) can be viewed <http://www.cypswansea.co.uk/fssupplementary>

Equality Impact Assessment can be viewed at <http://www.cypswansea.co.uk/fssupplementary>

Appendices:

Appendix A Approved Phase 1 and 2 settings

Appendix B City & County of Swansea Summary of submitted bid and decisions of approved areas to date

Appendix C Financial Implications Summary