

**Report of the Cabinet Members for
Education & Services for Children & Young People**

Cabinet – 12 May 2015

FLYING START CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2015 - 2016

Purpose:	To outline the capital proposal included in the Additional Funding Application submitted to Welsh Government in respect of the Flying Start Programme 2015/16.
Policy Framework:	One Swansea Plan.
Reason for Decision:	To comply with Financial Procedure Rule 7- to approve and include new Capital schemes in the Capital Programme.
Consultation:	Education, Poverty, Corporate Building and Services, Finance and Legal were consulted.
Recommendation(s):	It is recommended that Cabinet : - <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Authorise that the Director of Place be given authority to implement relocation of the previously approved Flying Start setting. 2. Authorise that the scheme as detailed, together with financial implications, be included in the capital programme.
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1.0 Background

- 1.1 Flying Start is one of the Welsh Government's (WG) Flagship Programmes aimed at improving outcomes for children under 4 in the identified most deprived areas with the main focus of child development.

- 1.2 Swansea's model of delivery for the Flying Start Programme has been acknowledged by Welsh Government as good practice. Flying Start settings are sited at Primary Schools ensuring the use of available space (potential surplus capacity) to establish "mini

children's centres". These comprise of the required Care and Social Services Inspectorate Wales (CSSIW) registered Childcare Facility, provide a base for Health Visitors and Parenting and Early Language Development provision. This has enabled co-located multi-agency teams to operate to support young children and their families in each area.

- 1.3 The Flying Start Programme in Swansea has been developed with the aspirations for 21st Century schools so that the benefits of Flying Start are maximised within Primary Schools and Community Focussed Schools. This also provides the opportunity to achieve effective transition into the Foundation Phase.
- 1.4 There have been 3 phases to the rollout of the Flying Start Programme. The targeting for each phase has been set by Welsh Government. At the end of 2014/15 there were 2659 0-3 year olds in the Flying Start Programme in Swansea benefiting from the full range of entitlements across different settings. In 2015/16 the full approved Programme will be established benefiting approximately 2,900 0-3 year olds annually.

2.0 Additional Capital Round

- 2.1 In August 2014, WG invited Swansea to submit a bid for additional funding for **existing** Flying Start areas. The purpose of this opportunity was a commitment to plugging identified gaps in existing agreed areas in order to consolidate the Programme. In response to this criteria Swansea's bid included capital funding to enable a Flying Start setting to be established in Pentre'r Graig Primary to support the Morriston 5 LSOA, a relocated Welsh Medium setting (Plantos Bach to part of site of former Daniel James Secondary School – close proximity to YGG Tirdeunaw). Also some smaller projects to enhance provision and set up costs.
- 2.2 WG confirmed on 21st January 2015, that Swansea had been approved £275,000 Flying Start capital grant to relocate the Welsh Medium setting (as above). WG have also approved capital grant allocation for some set up costs, along with £65K for upgrading outside provision at Parklands FS setting. See Appendix A.

3.0 Service Solution Proposal

- 3.1 Building on the Programme to date and taking into account lessons learned and good practice, the preferred way forward has been to maximise the use of available space (potential surplus capacity) via re-modelling within or adjacent to existing local primary schools (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 The proposal for the location of the Flying Start facility at the former Daniel James School site is Block A. Currently the Education Welfare Officer (EWO) team is based in this building, along with a police community liaison officer and the top two floors are occupied by YGG Tirdeunaw. The proposed location would not impact on these services remaining on site. Despite uncertainty over the long term plan for the Mynyddbach (former Daniel James School) site, the introduction of Flying Start on the site will help support costs (with a contribution based on floor area to utilities), as well as providing a 52 week per year presence on site. The introduction of Flying Start to this site, does not limit potential future use for this site. It also enables Swansea to continue with its preferred strategy for co-location of services on or close to Primary provision.
- 3.3 The current FS provision at Penplas Family Centre does not allow for additional Welsh Medium places to be offered and there are some accessibility issues. The relocated setting will allow co location of services with Health Visitors on site and space for parenting classes and associated crèche facilities. Whilst there would be a reduction in income for the family centre as a result of the re-location the family centre would be able to continue to run services from their existing base. There will also be an opportunity to tender to manage the relocated Welsh Medium Flying Start Provision
- 3.4 Over the last few years there have been a number of information requests in relation to welsh medium provision within the Flying Start Programme. Flying Start in Swansea is being challenged to evidence that it has sufficient and accessible welsh medium places. It is anticipated that this relocation will address these concerns as well as the assessment of the suitability of the existing provision whilst also achieving consistency with Swansea's preferred model of co-locating with the Foundation Phase provision.
- 3.5 The existing provision provides 12 childcare places, the relocated setting would be able to provide 12 places at a minimum with potential to further increase welsh medium places up to 48 childcare places at this relocated setting.

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 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.

Language - providing equality of access, Welsh Medium places

Children's Rights - In line with the Councils commitment to the UNCRC the initiative will have a direct impact on children and young people and is designed in the best interest of children as stated in guiding principal

Article 3. Best interests of the child (Article 3): The best interests of children must be the primary concern in making decisions that may affect them. All adults should do what is best for children. When adults make decisions, they should think about how their decisions will affect children. This particularly applies to budget, policy and law makers

- 4.2 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 **£275,000** and will be fully funded by grant from the Welsh Government.
- 5.2 The Funding relates to the period April 2015 to March 2016 and must be claimed in full by 31st March 2016 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 A.

Revenue

- 5.3 Flying Start revenue funding has already been committed as the service to be provided on the former Daniel James School site will be re-located from its current location.

6.0 Legal Implications

- 6.1 In line with arrangements at all other school based FS settings a licence agreement will be in place with the new provider 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.

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) via a single tender approach. This approach has previously been approved with external auditors, therefore will fulfil stipulated grant criteria and attain best value throughout the process.
- 7.2 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:

List of approved Flying Start Areas (Phase 1,2 and 3) can be viewed

<http://www.swansea.gov.uk/approvedfssettings>

Equality Impact Assessment can be viewed at

<http://www.swansea.gov.uk/approvedfssettings>

Appendices:

Appendix A Financial Implications Summary