



Report of the Director of People

External Funding Panel - 7 March 2018

Reducing Infant Class Sizes and Raising Standards – Welsh Government Grant Funding

Purpose:	To inform Panel of the intention to apply for Reducing Infant Class Sizes and Raising Standards – Welsh Government Grant Funding and to provide details
Policy Framework:	Band B of School Organisation Programme 21 st Century school programme
Consultation:	Legal, Finance and Access to Services
Recommendation(s):	
1)	It is recommended that the bid for Reducing Infant Class Sizes and Raising Standards is approved
Report Author:	Kelly Small
Finance Officer:	Chris Davies/Jayne James
Legal Officer:	Stephanie Williams
Access to Services Officer:	Sherill Hopkins

1.0 Introduction

1.1 The Welsh Government have offered local authorities a new grant with the intention of reducing infant class sizes and raising standards. Swansea have been provided with a revenue figure to apply for over the grant period, £1,202,923.02, and unlimited bid to a capital fund. Criteria apply to the application with the focus being on schools with classes of 29 learners or over, and where the schools demonstrate at least one, or a combination, of the following:

- Significant levels of free school meals;
- Below average outcomes and where a school is judged to be red or amber (according to regional ERW categorisation)
- Significant levels of special educational and additional learning needs
- Significant levels of where Welsh/English is not the first language

1.2 The proposed bid is to establish one new class base at the following schools with associated capital and revenue funding:

- Hendrefoilan Primary School (classroom extension)
- Penyrheol Primary School (internal remodelling)
- Sea View Primary School (small extension and remodelling)
- YGG Bryniago (internal remodelling)

1.3 Legislation requires each class to be taught by a qualified teacher and will also require teaching assistant support to address the Foundation Phase staff to learner ratio. The revenue bid is to cover the teachers and each school will need to fund the teaching assistants from their existing delegated budget share. All of the schools in our bid are in areas of population growth. As numbers continue to grow this will generate additional delegated budget share to allow the schools to sustainably fund a teacher and teaching assistant for each of these classes after the grant ends.

2.0 Equality and Engagement Implications

An Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) screening form has been completed with the agreed outcome that a full EIA report will be required for each individual project if the bid is successful. These will be drafted over the coming weeks.

3.0 Financial Implications

3.1 The bid is for the full £1,202,110 of available revenue grant as well as £1,530,110 of capital funding.

3.2 The split for capital funding is below:

Seaview Primary £441,503
 Penyrheol Primary £385,169
 YGG Bryniago £238,438
 Hendrefoilan Primary £465,000

3.3 There is no cost to the authority other than potential marginal costs in future of supporting additional members of staff and project support. The new build areas will become a capital asset of the authority and will come under the Division of Responsibility for future repair and maintenance, with future capital support coming under the local authority.

4.0 Legal Implications

4.1 The Education (Infant Class Sizes) (Wales) Regulations 1998 restrict to 30 the maximum number of pupils in an infant class while an ordinary teaching session is conducted by a school teacher. Therefore this grant application supports the Local Authority as admissions authority in ensuring it complies with this duty.

4.2 The Council will need to ensure that it complies with any terms and conditions attached to this Welsh Government grant funding.

Background Papers:

None

Appendices:

Appendix A - EFP1