



## Report of the Cabinet Member for Education & Learning

Cabinet – 21 July 2022

# Capital Programme Authorisation for the Commitment of Capital Grant Funding awarded for Community Focused Schools

<b>Purpose:</b>	To comply with Financial Procedure Rule No 7 (Capital Programming and Appraisals) to commit and authorise schemes in the Capital programme.
<b>Policy Framework:</b>	Financial Procedure Rules
<b>Consultation:</b>	Education, Finance, Legal Services, Corporate Building Services, Corporate Property Services, Access to Services
<b>Recommendation(s):</b>	It is recommended that:  1) The capital scheme in the sum of £1,443,998 to support small and medium scale practical projects to safely and effectively open schools to the community outside traditional hours is approved, and included in the capital programme for 2022/23.
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### 1. Introduction

- 1.1 Welsh Government have made an award of capital funding to Swansea Council of £1,443,998 to support small and medium scale practical projects to safely and effectively open schools to the community outside traditional hours.
- 1.2 The aim of the grant is to safely adapt and effectively open schools outside traditional hours through a number of targeted small and medium

scale capital investment, thus enabling community use of the existing facilities. Eligible expenditure for this funding will include, but not be limited to, the following capital costs:

- improving external lighting (sports areas),
- providing storage for equipment (extra-curricular activities by community groups),
- outside shelters
- security measures to segregate school and community use areas.
- modifications to changing rooms and/or toilet to facilitate community use

## **2. Description of project**

2.1 The funding has to be spent this financial year and therefore easily deliverable smaller projects, or medium scale projects that are already in development are probably the only realistic options to be considered if this is to be achieved.

2.2 Schools have therefore been invited to submit expressions of interest addressing some of the following questions;

- What evidence do you have of demand/need?
- Will your project have an impact on any neighbouring community facilities?
- How will the project help you to engage families and work with the wider community to support all pupils and particularly those disadvantaged by poverty?
- What stage of development is it at?
- What is your timescale for delivery?
- What is the project cost?
- What funding is in place?
- How much funding are you applying for though this grant?
- What are your plans for sustainability / ongoing operational management and revenue funding?

2.3 The closing date for expressions of interest is the 24 June, following which those received will be assessed considering deliverability and fit with the purposes of the grant award.

## **3. Integrated Assessment Implications**

3.1 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.
- 3.2 The Well-being of Future Generations (WFG) (Wales) Act 2015 mandates that public bodies in Wales must carry out sustainable development.
- 3.3 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’.
- 3.4 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.
- 3.5 An IIA screening has been undertaken and it has been determined that the project does not require a full IIA report.
- 3.6 The investment in Community Focused schools is part of Welsh Government’ package of funding which ‘will be used to ensure more schools are able to operate and develop as Community Focused Schools, which reach out to engage families and work with the wider community to support all pupils and particularly those disadvantaged by poverty.’ Jeremy Miles 21/03/2022.
- 3.7 This project supports the delivery of that statement.
- 3.8 All key stakeholders will be communicated with throughout the project’s delivery.

#### **4. Financial Implications**

##### **Capital**

- 4.1 Welsh Government awarded £1,443,998 to the Council on 29 April 2022 to support small and medium scale practical projects to safely and effectively open schools to the community outside traditional hours. The Funding relates to eligible capital expenditure during the period 01 April 2022 to 31 March 2023 and has been paid in full.

4.2 The Council will be required to report at the end of the 2022-23 financial year on how the funding has been used in line with the terms of grant. A sustainability impact assessment will also need to be completed to demonstrate how sustainability has been considered as part of this grant.

**Revenue**

4.3 Schools are funded from an overall delegated budget – the Individual Schools Budget (ISB). There is a funding formula that allocates a budget share to each individual school from the ISB.

4.4 As the purposes of the grant are for community facilities and additional revenue costs should be self-funding, from income generated from community use, there should be no revenue implications.

**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 projects 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:** None

**Appendices:**

Appendix A - Financial Implications Summary

