

**RECORD OF DELEGATED OFFICER DECISION**

Key Decision ✓

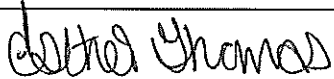
**SUBJECT: Increasing Welsh Medium Provision – Welsh Government capital grant**

**PURPOSE OF REPORT:**

In accordance with the Council's Scheme of Delegation, this report has been prepared to accompany the intended officer decision of the Director of Education and Lifelong Learning to submit a business case to Welsh Government to seek funding via their 'Increasing Welsh Medium Provision' capital grant to expand early years provision in six of our Welsh medium primary schools.

**DELEGATED DECISION:**

To agree to the submission of a business case to Welsh Government by their deadline of 1<sup>st</sup> June 2018 to seek capital funding to enable the expansion of early years provision in six of our Welsh medium primary schools.

|   |                                    |                 |
|---|------------------------------------|-----------------|
| <br><b>Chief Officer Signature</b> | ESTHER THOMAS<br><b>Print Name</b> | Date 31-05-2018 |
|---|------------------------------------|-----------------|

The decision is taken in accordance with Section 15 of the Local Government Act, 2000 (Executive Functions) and in the terms set out in Section 5 of Part 3 of the Council's Constitution

**CONSULTATION**

*Jay Rosser*

31.05.18

CONSULTEE CABINET MEMBER SIGNATURE

DATE

CONSULTEE OFFICER SIGNATURE

DATE

**CALL IN PROCEDURE RULES.**

**IS THE DECISION DEEMED URGENT AND NOT SUBJECT TO CALL-IN BY THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE:**

YES ✓

*Reason for urgency: Deadline for submission set by Welsh Government of 1<sup>st</sup> June 2018.*

*If deemed urgent - signature of Mayor or Deputy Mayor or Head of Paid Service confirming agreement that the proposed decision is reasonable in all the circumstances for it being treated as a matter of urgency, in accordance with the overview and scrutiny procedure rule 17.2:*

*S. J. D. D. D.*

(Mayor)

31.5.18

(Dated)

**NB - If this is a reconsidered decision then the decision Cannot be Called In and the decision will take effect from the date the decision is signed.**

FOR CABINET OFFICE USE ONLY

**PUBLICATION & IMPLEMENTATION DATES**

**PUBLICATION**

Publication on the Councils Website:- 31/05/2018

DATE

**IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECISION**

**Note:** This decision will not come into force and may not be implemented until the expiry of 3 clear working days after its publication to enable it to be the subject to the Call-In Procedure in Rule 17.1 of the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules.

Subject to Call In the implementation date will be           /            
DATE

  
Chief Executive

CDBRASSMAN  
Print Name

31<sup>st</sup> MAY 18  
Date

### Further Information

|               |  |
|---------------|--|
| Directorate:  | Education and Lifelong learning          |
| Contact Name: | Miss Andrea Richards                     |
| Designation:  | Head of 21 <sup>st</sup> Century Schools |
| Tel.No.       | 01443 744002                             |

## **DELEGATED DECISION**

### **RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

### **REPORT TO ACCOMPANY A DECISION OF THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION AND LIFELONG LEARNING**

**29<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2018**

### **INCREASING WELSH MEDIUM PROVISION – WELSH GOVERNMENT CAPITAL GRANT**

**AUTHOR: Andrea Richards, Head of 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools**

#### **1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

To obtain formal approval to submit a business case to Welsh Government to seek funding via their 'Increasing Welsh Medium Provision' capital grant to expand early years provision in six of our Welsh medium primary schools.

#### **2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

That approval be provided for the business case to be submitted to Welsh Government by 1<sup>st</sup> June 2018.

#### **3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

To enable the Council to apply for funding which will assist the Council in meeting the requirements of its Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP), 2017-21 and the Welsh Government ambition: Cymraeg 2050, by facilitating the expansion of early years provision in six of our Welsh medium primary schools, which in turn should encourage more pupils to enter Welsh medium primary schools and increase the number of Welsh speakers in Rhondda Cynon Taf and beyond.

#### **4. BACKGROUND**

- 4.1 On 16<sup>th</sup> January 2018, the Welsh Government announced the availability of £30 million additional capital funding the purpose of which is to fund capital projects which support and grow the use of Welsh language in education.
- 4.2 Welsh Government wrote to all Local Authorities on 16<sup>th</sup> March 2018 outlining the terms of the funding and inviting applications via the submission of business cases.

- 4.3 In order to be considered for any element of this £30 million funding, applications via the submission of business cases must be received by Welsh Government by their deadline of 1<sup>st</sup> June 2018.
- 4.4 The funding is aimed specifically at capital projects that will demonstrably contribute to meeting the Welsh Government's aim of one million Welsh speakers by 2050 (Cymraeg 2050) and as part of this, the funding application information advises that consideration will be given to relevant factors, including significant gaps in Welsh medium childcare.
- 4.5 Two other areas which Welsh Government have advised will be considered are, projects which –
- 'help to attract pupils to the Welsh medium sector e.g. Welsh medium childcare or nursery provision';
  - 'improve transition rates within Welsh medium sector e.g. between pre-school facilities and Foundation Phase provision';
- 4.6 In consideration of the grant criteria / funding application information referred to above and the ongoing 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools Band B funding process, a shortlist of projects has been agreed by the Director of Education and Lifelong Learning in consultation with key officers. By creating additional early year's provision at six Welsh medium primary schools, the projects identified will support the Councils 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools Programme by providing a holistic approach to co-location of services on school sites. Securing this capital funding will ensure that these early years facilities are located in our schools providing linguistic continuum and improve transition into Welsh medium schools together with scope for accommodating increased numbers of children ensuring effective planning of future provision.

## **5. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS**

An Equality Impact Assessment is not needed because the contents of the report are for information purposes only.

## **6. CONSULTATION**

Consultation on the proposals contained within the business case submission is not a statutory requirement, however, discussions have been held with key stakeholders and should any funding be forthcoming, the Council will further engage with the relevant providers and key stakeholders.

## **7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATION(S)**

There are no financial implications for the Council as any agreed plans are fully funded at 100% by Welsh Government with no requirement for any match funding or financial contribution from the Council.

## **8. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS OR LEGISLATION CONSIDERED**

There are no legal implications associated with this decision.

## **9. LINKS TO THE COUNCILS CORPORATE PLAN / OTHER CORPORATE PRIORITIES**

- 9.1 There are links to the Authority's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) 2017-21 and the Welsh Government's Cymraeg 2050 strategy.
- 9.2 The Authority's WESP identifies that the majority of Welsh medium schools within Rhondda Cynon Taf have sufficient capacity to cope with an increase in demand for Welsh medium education and it is anticipated that providing additional capacity via this funding application for Welsh medium early years provision should encourage more children to transfer to Welsh medium primary schools.
- 9.3 The Welsh Government's Welsh In Education Action Plan 2017-21 and Cymraeg 2050 note the importance of early years provisions in helping to increase the number of Welsh speakers in Wales. The funding application seeks to support this by encouraging pupils to transfer from Welsh medium early years provisions to Welsh medium primary schools, providing a continuum of learning Welsh.

## **10. CONCLUSION**

It is requested that approval be provided to submit a business case to Welsh Government by 1<sup>st</sup> June 2018 seeking funding via their 'Increasing Welsh Medium Provision' capital grant to expand early years / Meithrin provision in six of our Welsh medium primary schools.

***Relevant Scrutiny Committee***

Children and Young People

***Background Papers***

Welsh Medium Capital Grant letter dated 16<sup>th</sup> March 2018.

***Contact Officer***

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