



**RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**CABINET**

**8<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2019**

**21st CENTURY SCHOOLS AND EDUCATION PROGRAMME CAPITAL  
MAINTENANCE GRANT 2019/20**

**REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION AND INCLUSION SERVICES IN  
DISCUSSIONS WITH THE RELEVANT PORTFOLIO HOLDER, COUNCILLOR J  
ROSSER**

**Authors:**

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**1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

- 1.1 The report provides Members with details of additional capital maintenance grant funding awarded by Welsh Government for 2019/20.

**2. RECOMMENDATION**

- 2.1 Note the receipt of £3.185 million of capital funding from Welsh Government.
- 2.2 Approve the projects outlined in the report as priority for 2019/20 and approve scheme commencement.

**3. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATION**

- 3.1 To inform Members of the receipt of grant monies and to advise on the expenditure plans for the awarded funding.
- 3.2 To continue to support the ongoing programme of work in school premises to deal with essential condition and health and safety issues across the school estate, to ensure school buildings are 'safe, watertight and warm'.
- 3.3 To continue to deliver the Council's long term school modernisation improvement programme supporting one of the Council's Corporate Plan Priorities (the Way Ahead 2016-2020) to draw down as many funds where possible to support its investment priorities.

## **4 BACKGROUND**

- 4.1 On the 20<sup>th</sup> March 2019 the Council received notification from Welsh Government that it is providing £40 million to support local authorities across Wales in addressing capital maintenance pressures.
- 4.2 The funding has been awarded to alleviate financial pressure on local authorities and supports Welsh Government 21st Century Schools and Education Programme, as one of its key priorities is addressing poor condition schools.
- 4.3 In contrast to last year's grant, the funding will be provided through capital rather than revenue, with local authorities able to determine their priorities of spend.
- 4.4 The funding is ring-fenced and is to be used to address capital maintenance costs incurred in 2018-19. This in turn will enable local authorities to use their own resources to self-finance capital investment on school maintenance in 2019-20 to the equivalent amount.
- 4.5 The Council were required to complete a monitoring return providing details of qualifying expenditure for the financial year 2018/19 and the Councils plans for self-financed capital investment for 2019-20.
- 4.6 The continuation of the school modernisation programme through investment in the Council Capital Programme is making significant enhancements to the quality of our school premises. This investment has been a vital part of the Council programme which has undoubtedly contributing to reducing our backlog of maintenance in schools and vastly improving the quality of our learning environments for our young people and the wider Community.
- 4.7 In framing options for the additional planned capital maintenance works programme, the following factors were taken into account whilst prioritising the need for investment:
- The results of the Property Condition Surveys and further investigation works by Council surveyors and engineers.
  - The continuation of the Council ambitious programme to provide first class Community and sports facilities to improve the health and wellbeing of our pupils and the wider Community in line with our 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools Programme.
  - Health and Safety considerations.
  - Reducing energy and carbon.
  - Refurbishing classrooms to provide inspirational up-to-date modern learning environments.

## 5. PROPOSED PROJECTS

5.1 The table below sets out the proposed projects to be funded by the additional planned capital maintenance programme now available to spend in 2019/20.

<b>List of Priority Projects</b>	<b>£k</b>
3G Community pitch for Treorchy Comprehensive School	1.100
Replacement glazing in existing windows to various schools	0.100
Essential maintenance and remodelling works to Ferndale Community School swimming pool	0.600
Essential new heating boilers in various schools	0.100
Maerdy Community Primary School –upgrading of school hall and corridor areas including new lighting	0.80
Adaptations to schools Equalities Act Compliance	0.55
Bryncelynnog Comprehensive School –Replacement flat roof and refurbishment of pupil toilets Phase 2	0.250
YG Llanhari – Remodelling and essential repairs to the CLASP teaching block	0.200
Park Lane Special School -Replacement flat roof	0.100
Pengeulan Primary School -Essential repairs to infant block including upgrading of classrooms and repairs to school yard	0.100
Y Pant Comprehensive School- Refurbishment of the 1950's stand-alone gymnasium block and changing rooms	0.200
Cwmdar Primary School –Essential repairs to link corridor between infants and junior block	0.080
Tonysguboriau Primary School - Roof repairs and modifications to main entrance for safeguarding	0.50
Caradog Primary School- Structural repairs and roofing works Phase 1	0.100
Maesycoed Primary School- Removal of dilapidated swimming pool and modifications to the room to provide additional teaching space	0.70
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3.185k</b>

## 6. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

6.1 The proposed schemes have given due consideration to equality issues particularly in relation to access to our school premises. Schools are a key part of our communities and as such it is important that they are well maintained, accessible and 'fit for purpose'.

## **7 CONSULTATION**

7.1 There are no consultation requirements arising from this report.

## **8 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

8.1 The funding allocation of £3.185M is 100% grant funded and there is no requirement for any match funding or financial contribution from the Council.

8.2 The grant funding has been awarded for 2019/2020 and the building works can be delivered by the end of March 2020.

## **9 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS OR LEGISLATION CONSIDERED**

9.1 There are no legal implications as a result of the recommendations set out in this report.

## **10 LINKS TO THE CORPORATE AND NATIONAL PRIORITIES AND THE WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS ACT.**

10.1 This investment programme forms part of the Council's larger school modernisation and 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools Programme and supports one of the Council's Corporate Plan Priorities 'Economy – Building a Strong Economy'.

## **11 CONCLUSION**

11.1 The projects identified in the additional planned capital maintenance programme can be committed and delivered within the financial year and will have an immediate impact on improving schools and their surrounding communities. The plan of expenditure will contribute to further improvements in a wide range of physical environments benefiting pupils, staff, young people and members of the public.

### **Other Information:-**

**Relevant Scrutiny Committee:** Children and Young People

**Contact Officer:** Andrea Richards (01443 744002)

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**

**AS AMENDED BY**

**THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985**

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ROSSER**

**Item: EDUCATION & INCLUSION SERVICES PLANNED CAPITAL MAINTENANCE  
PROGRAMME 2019/20**

**Background Papers**

Grant Condition Award letter March 2019

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