

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

CABINET

2ND OCTOBER 2014

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION & LIFELONG LEARNING

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A NEW SCHOOL FOR Y PANT COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

The purpose of this report is to inform Members that Welsh Government has approved the Council's Final Business Case to invest £24.1m in new school facilities for Y Pant Comprehensive School.

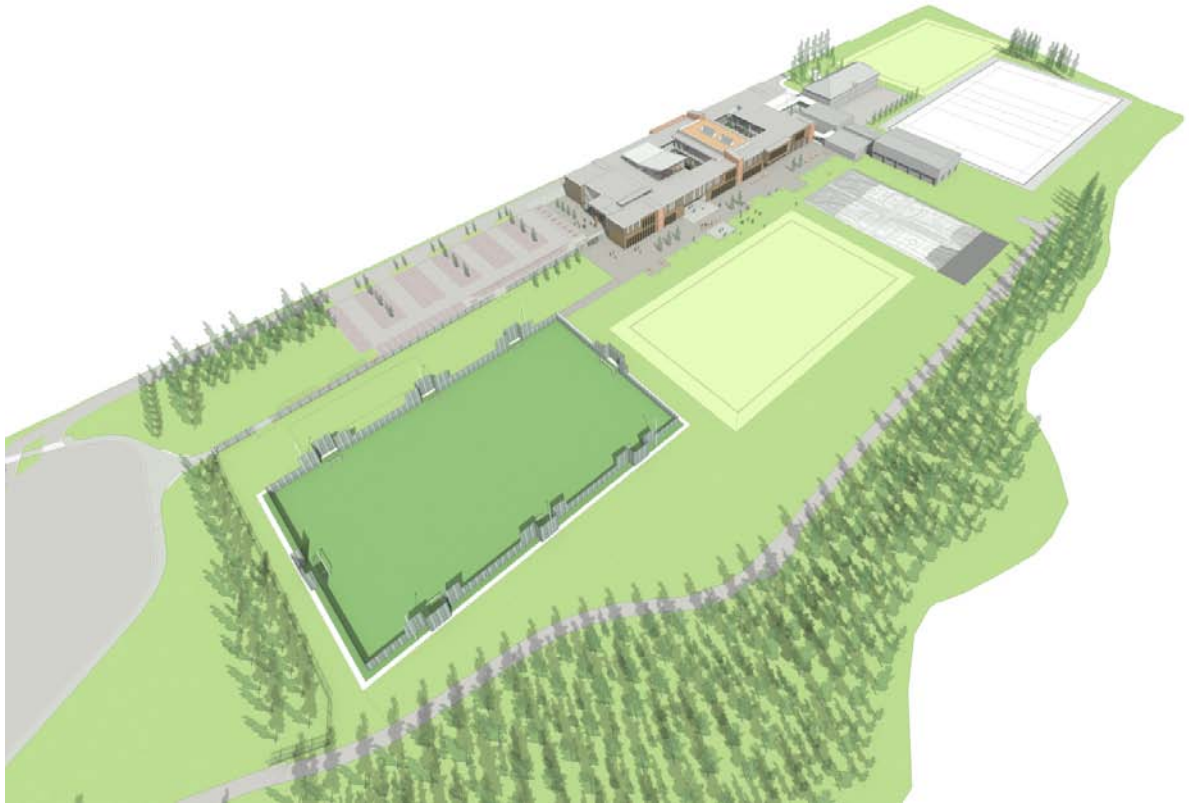
2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Members:

- 2.1 Note the information contained in the report;

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 On 3rd July 2014, the Council submitted the Final Business case to invest £24.1m in a new school for Y Pant Comprehensive School, Pontyclun.
- 3.2 This investment will provide specialist accommodation to replace older existing buildings including the 1950s building, CLASP building and temporary mobile classrooms (which comprise over 25% of the schools existing classroom accommodation). The project also provides some extra accommodation to cater for the potential demand created by the housing development that is already under construction in the area. The Council has also re-aligning catchment areas to reduce the surplus places at a neighbouring local secondary school, namely Bryncelynnog Comprehensive School.
- 3.3 On 25th June 2014, the Council agreed to include the new school for Y Pant on the Council's Capital Programme, investing 50% of the £24.1m utilising Prudential Borrowing. The revenue contributions for the Prudential Borrowing being made from through school closures as part of the Council's 21st Century Schools Strategy.
- 3.4 It is proposed that planning permission for the new school buildings will be sought in November 2014, with construction starting on site by May 2015. It is estimated that the building work will be completed by March 2017.
- 3.5 An outline architect's drawing of the new school buildings is set out below.



4 **CONCLUSION**

Y Pant Comprehensive School has an excellent academic record in recent years being a Welsh Government Band 1 school, despite being housed in poor and unsuitable buildings and facilities. By working in partnership with Welsh Government, the £24.1m investment will address this and provide a 21st Century learning experience for the communities served by Y Pant.