



**RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**CABINET**

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

**CHILDCARE OFFER CAPITAL GRANT FUNDING BID**

**REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION AND INCLUSION SERVICES  
IN DISCUSSIONS WITH THE CABINET MEMBER FOR EDUCATION  
(COUNCILLOR MRS J ROSSER)**

**Author(s):** Gaynor Davies Director of Education and Inclusion Services and  
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**1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to advise Members of the receipt of capital grants to support the implementation of the Welsh Government Childcare Offer in RCT.

**2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that the Cabinet:

- 2.1 Note the information contained in this report.
- 2.2 Note the receipt of £2.598,014 million of capital funding from Welsh Government.
- 2.3 Agree to include the grant funded capital projects in the capital programme.
- 2.4 Approve the grant funded dedicated Project Officer for the duration of the programme ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021.

**3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 3.1 To inform Members of the receipt of grant monies and to advise on the expenditure plans and proposals for these monies.

#### **4. BACKGROUND**

- 4.1 In August 2018, the Council was invited by Welsh Government to submit a grant bid and business case for capital projects that will support implementation of the childcare element of the Childcare Offer in RCT.
- 4.2 Taking Wales Forward commits Welsh Government to providing 30 hours a week of government funded Foundation Phase Nursery (FPN) education and childcare for working parents of three and four year olds, for up to 48 weeks of the year.
- 4.3 The capital grant programme is aimed to support projects that will demonstrably contribute to supporting the implementation of the Childcare Offer in RCT. The primary purpose of the capital programme is to fund capital projects that will facilitate and support the seamless transition between the FPN education element of the Childcare Offer and the additional funded childcare. Supporting co-location of both elements of the offer was preferred wherever possible.
- 4.4 Therefore, key consideration was given to:
- Projects which aim to provide a seamless transition between the FPN and childcare elements of the offer;
  - Projects which are part of larger schemes (where appropriate) which utilise other sources of funding such as the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools and Education Programme or Welsh language funding;
  - Projects which fill gaps in the childcare market as identified in Childcare Sufficiency Assessments and through consultation with childcare providers in RCT and with CWLWM representatives (Clybiau Plant Cymru, Mudiad Meithrin, NDNA Cymru, PACEY Cymru, and Wales PPA)
- 4.5 In response to the grant criteria, and the Council's ongoing 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools Modernisation and Education Programme Band B funding process, a shortlist of projects was agreed by the Director of Education and Inclusion Services in consultation with key officers.
- 4.6 It was agreed that the emphasis of the funding bid would be to support wraparound childcare provisions that are already on school sites, or to develop new settings in schools where there is a demand for wraparound care funded by the Childcare Offer. These projects support the Council's 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools Programme by providing a holistic approach to co-location of services on school sites. Eleven projects were put forward for consideration.
- 4.7 These 11 projects are a second phase of identified priority areas for investment to support our current plans, as in September 2018, the Council was awarded £3.57 million of Welsh medium capital grant

funding to deliver five projects in our Welsh schools to improve and expand Welsh medium pre-school childcare settings. These projects are also based on school sites, thus supporting the co-location of services and allowing parents to access Welsh medium pre-school and wraparound childcare.

4.8 The 11 submitted proposed projects can be seen in the table below together with an additional project number 12 which is explained in paragraph 4.9:

<b>Project No'</b>	<b>Project detail</b>	<b>Amount requested</b>
1	Creation of a new childcare facility at Tonyrefail Community School	£125,000
2	Relocation of an existing childcare facility at Gwauncelyn Primary School to a new location on school site	£745,000
3	Relocation of two existing childcare facilities at Cwmlai Primary School to a new location on school site	£745,000
4	Relocation of an existing childcare facility from its current base to a refurbished area of YGG Castellau;	£855,000
5	Creation of a new childcare facility at Dolau Primary School	£730,000
6	Refurbishment and expansion of current childcare facility at Treorchy Primary School	£1,000,000
7	Relocation of an existing childcare facility at YGG Llyn y Forwyn	£750,000
8	Relocation of an existing childcare facility at Penygawsi Primary School to a new location on school site	£1,150,000
9	Relocation of an existing childcare facility from its current base to a new location at Maesybryn Primary School	£750,000
10	Relocation of an existing childcare facility from its current base to a new location at Tonysguboriau Primary School	£750,000
11	Relocation of an existing childcare facility from its current base to a new location at Llwynocrwn Primary School	£700,000
12	Small capital grant scheme / Project Officer post	£253,013.40
<b>Total amount requested</b>		<b>£8,553,013.40</b>

- 4.9 As highlighted in the table in paragraph 4.8, funding was also requested for a 'Small Capital Works' grant scheme. This would be available to childcare providers delivering the Childcare Offer to apply for funding to support small capital projects. Examples may include installation of ramps, purchase of specialist equipment etc for children with additional needs, creation of hygiene rooms to support children with specific medical needs.
- 4.10 A further funding bid was also requested for a dedicated Project Officer post. This would be a secondment opportunity up to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021. This officer would manage the completion of the successful projects, as well as administering and monitoring the implementation of the small capital works grant scheme
- 4.11 The grant funding bid and business case was submitted to Welsh Government in September 2018. In February 2019, we were advised that we had been successful in receiving funding for four of the eleven capital projects, as well as funding for the small capital grant scheme and the Project Officer. These were:

<b>Project No'</b>	<b>Project detail</b>	<b>Amount awarded</b>
1	Tonyrefail Community School	£125,000
2	Gwauncelyn Primary School	£745,000
3	Cwmlai Primary School	£745,000
5	Dolau Primary School	£730,000
12	Small capital grant scheme	£120,000
	Project Officer post	£133,014
<b>Total amount awarded</b>		<b>£2,598,014</b>

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

- 5.1 Equality and Community Impact Assessments are not required in respect of these proposals, but all work undertaken will be fully accessible and compliant with the Equality Act 2010.

## **6. CONSULTATION**

- 6.1 Consultation on the proposals contained within the funding business case is not a statutory requirement. However, discussions were held with key stakeholders prior to the submission of the funding bid. Further engagement will be undertaken with stakeholders in the planning and delivery of the projects.

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

- 7.1 The total amount of grant funding to be received from Welsh Government is £2,598,014.
- 7.2 The funding profile for this grant is to the end of March 2021. It is anticipated that the majority of building works will be completed by the end of September 2020.
- 7.3 All of the above projects are 100% funded by Welsh Government and there is no requirement for any match funding or financial contribution from the Council.

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

- 8.1 The Council has duties under section 22(1) of the Childcare Act 2006 ('the 2006 Act') to "secure, so far as is reasonably practicable, that the provision of childcare (whether or not by it) is sufficient to meet the requirements of parents in their area who require childcare in order to enable them (a) to take up, or remain in work; or (b) to undertake education or training which could reasonably be expected to assist them to obtain work."
- 8.2 The Childcare Capital Grant, and the funding bid subsequently submitted by RCT, supports the Welsh Government pledge to deliver 30 hours per week of combined FPN education and funded childcare to working parents of 3 and 4 year olds for 48 weeks a year.

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

- 9.1 This report encompasses the priorities set out in the RCT Corporate Plan – The Way Ahead, particularly the objectives of '*building a strong economy*' by supporting parents to conveniently access childcare and education services in one place, and '*promoting independence and positive lives for everyone*' by offering children purpose built, 21<sup>st</sup> Century facilities in which to grow and learn.
- 9.2 Goal one of the Well Being of Future Generations Act 2015 – '*a prosperous Wales*' is supported by this application as co-location of childcare services on school site will make it easier for parents to take up employment opportunities.
- 9.3 This funding bid supports the priorities set out in the Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2017-2022 action plan, particularly those

priorities that support implementation of the Childcare Offer. Co-location of services on school site also supports the aims of the Band B 21st Century Schools Programme for RCT.

## **10. CONCLUSION**

- 10.1 Members are asked to note the additional planned investment of £2.598, 014 million in our school sites, which is in addition to the sums being invested through our annual capital programme and the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools Modernisation Programme.

### **Other Information:-**

#### ***Relevant Scrutiny Committee:***

Children and Young People

#### ***Contact Officer:***

Denise Humphries, Senior 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools Project Officer, 01443 744026

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**

**AS AMENDED BY**

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

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**Item:**

**Background Papers**

- Childcare Offer Capital Funding bid to Welsh Government
- Copy of grant letter received from Welsh Government

Officer to contact: Denise Humphries, Senior 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools Project  
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