

21st Century Schools Programme – Briefing note.

Joint Select Committee meeting – 11th July 2016



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Monmouthshire’s – Future Schools Programme. - *Our Vision*

“..To transform teaching and learning throughout Monmouthshire and to encourage whole communities to reach their full potential as well as provide all with better life chances..”

What is the programmes aims and aspirations?

The 21st Century Schools Programme is a joint venture between local authorities in Wales and Welsh Government designed to bring the teaching and learning within Wales It is a major. Long-term and strategic capital investment programme. Its aim is to create educational communities fit for the 21 Century in Wales

It is designed to deliver ...

- Learning environments in Wales that will enable the successful implementation of strategies for improvement and better educational outcomes.
- Greater economy and efficiency for learning environments through better use of resources.
- A sustainable education system in Wales that meets national building standards and reduced the recurrent costs and carbon footprint of educational buildings.

The Schools programme comes in two bands, Band A funding runs from 2014-2019 and Band B from 2019-2024. Band A funding in total is approx. £1.4bl and Band B is predicted to be around £500m.

What does Monmouthshire’s Programme look like?

Monmouthshire’s approved Band A programme funding envelope is £81.5m, funded 50% by the Local Authority and 50% by Welsh Government. The Band A consists of the following projects;

- New Raglan Primary School – 210 pupils designed around the Plaza teaching setting.
- New Welsh Medium Secondary provision within South East Wales.
- Rebuilding of Caldicot School – 1500 pupils with a 55 ALN provision integrated into a main stream setting
- Rebuilding of Monmouth Comprehensive – 1600 pupils with a 55 ALN provision integrated into a main stream setting.
- There was an aspiration to use some of the investment programme to meet some of the needs in the primary school sector, this is unlikely to be achieved in Band A and will form part of Band B consideration.

Monmouthshire’s element of the funding programme.

Monmouthshire 50% of this investment is to be met through Capital receipts and potential prudential borrowing.

Establishing the funding for the programme is done through a five case business model (OGC – Treasury Green Book model) with programmed submissions to Welsh Government for Minister approval. This five step process has now been complete and the funding for the programme has been officially agreed by Welsh Government and MCC. See attached copy of the Full Business Case for Caldicot School for reference.

Current position of the programme.

- Raglan Primary school was completed ready for occupancy in September 2015. Project delivered on programme and to budget.
- Welsh Medium Secondary Provision to be established on the Duffryn High School site in Newport. Children from Monmouthshire's Welsh Medium Primary schools have been included in the catchment for the new school. New school is for 900 pupil's 11-19Years. Programmed to start on site July 2016 and ready for occupation for September 2017. Monmouthshire's contribution to this school is £1.0m.
- Caldicot Secondary School has commenced on site (March 2016) and is due to be complete for occupancy for the start of the academic year September 2017.
- Monmouth Comprehensive, phase 1 enabling works due for completion by August 2016 with the main works programmed to commence in October 2016 with completion for occupancy around June 2018.
- We continue to explore the best way to re-provide a pool on the site (commitment to do so remains) and potentially improving the wider offer at Monmouth Leisure Centre

Governance of the Programme.

- There is a Programme Project Board that meets regularly to review progress and governance structures and decision making.
- Member's seminars are held at the appropriate times to keep all stakeholders informed.
- User groups for both schools meet weekly to look at all aspects of the design, education delivery and management of the new schools. User groups include teachers and students as well.
- EAS and SRS are key stakeholders who are also engaged regularly to test educational settings and ensure the digital environments for our new schools are robust, resilient and future proofed.
- Regular communications with Welsh Government team to provide updates.
- Third Party Gateway review (review of the programme and its management) was undertaken and a further one is programmed to be undertaken in the following months. Below is an extract from the previous Gateway review..

“The Review Team finds that the Programme has undertaken excellent preparations ahead of the construction phase and has an approach firmly rooted in achieving an uplift in educational outcomes. There is clear recognition amongst all stakeholders that this is not a buildings project, but an opportunity to enable change in teaching and learning...It is amongst the best prepared Programmes within the 21 Century Schools Programme in Wales.”

Risks to the programme.

The construction industry in South Wales is overheating and some of the tendered costs for both of the schools have come back higher than anticipated, the 21st C Schools team are working hard with our partnering contractor and the schools to drive cost out through an intense Value Engineering process. Currently construction inflation is running at 6%.

An approach has been made to Welsh Government regarding a potential funding uplift to assist in reducing programme cost pressures caused by inflation and some of the site challenges, in particular at Monmouth Comprehensive. If the approach to Welsh Government is successful then there will be a need for the council to consider “match funding” the uplift. We anticipate holding a Member Seminar towards the end of the month to update all Members on latest developments followed by a council report to lock in any necessary programme adjustments / enhancements.

What does the next year look like?

Our partnering Contractor has commissioned Y Prentis to deliver on their commitment to the apprenticeship programme.

Local businesses and contractors will continue to be part of the construction programme, for example, the steel frame for Caldicot and Monmouth Schools is designed to be British Steel and is provided and erected by a local contractor. All ground works services are also being provided by local contractors who are also committed to providing apprenticeship opportunities.

More work to be done on developing the appropriate change management strategies for the new schools, including achieving the appropriate savings / efficiencies the programme offers.

Training will continue to ensure that teachers are appropriately trained to use the digital environments within the new schools, mock teaching environments are being set up in the existing schools to start this process.

Caldicot School construction project near completion and Monmouth Comprehensive 50% through its construction programme.

21st Century Schools Programme -Images of Raglan Primary School.



View of the new school from the soft play area.



Internal view of the new school – YR3 /4 Plaza.



View of the front of the new school.



Main School Hall

21st Century Schools Programme – Caldicot School Project



Ariel view – New Caldicot School in construction.



Ariel view – New Caldicot School in construction.



Caldicot Site Plan.



Caldicot School – Ground floor plan



Monmouth Comprehensive – Site Plan



Monmouth Comprehensive – School entrance – visual

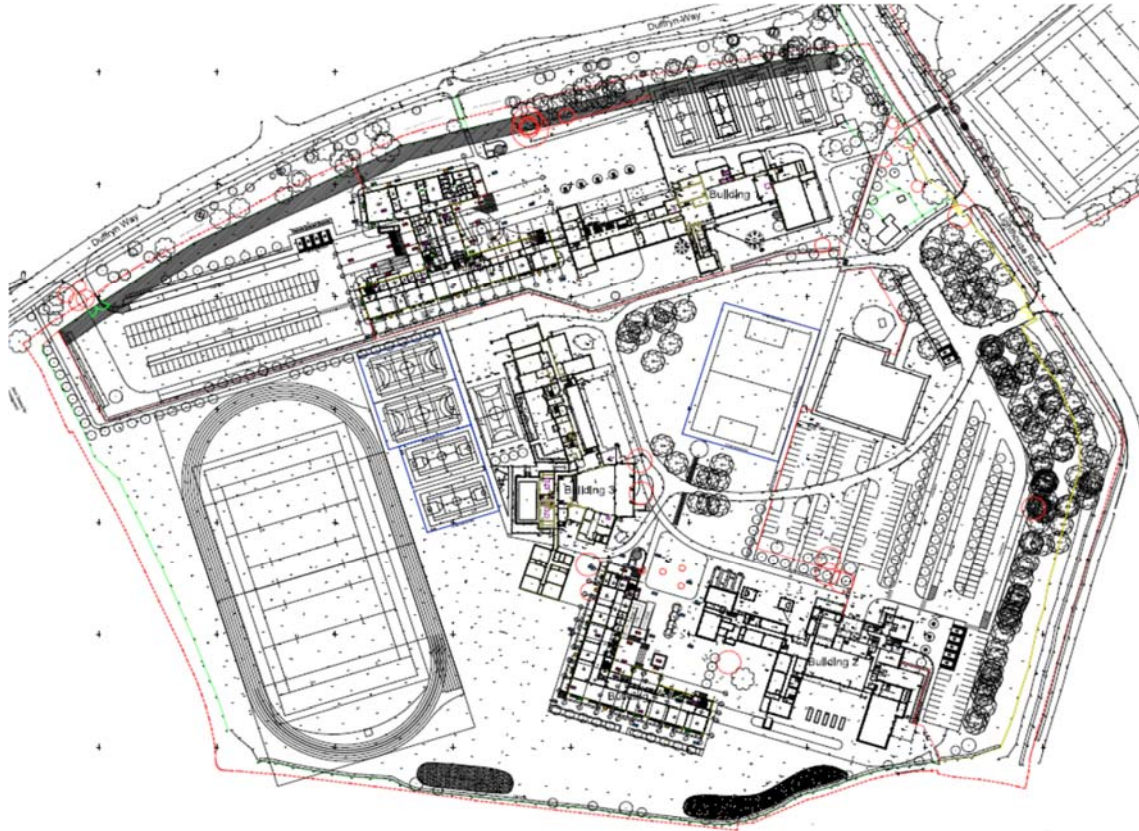


Demolition of the original school building – Monmouth Comprehensive



Drama department demolished – Monmouth Comprehensive.

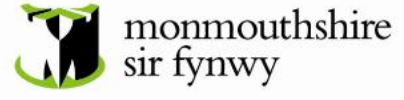
21st Century Schools Programme –Welsh Medium Secondary School



School Site plan – Duffryn High School – Newport.



Ariel Perspective .



monmouthshire
sir fynwy