

**MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
REPORT**

SUBJECT:	21st Century Schools Programme – Strategic Outline Programme (SOP) Band B Update.
MEETING: Committee	Children and Young People Select
DATE:	14th September 2017

1. PURPOSE:

To provide members details of the Strategic Outline Programme for Band B 21st Century Schools Programme.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

That Members scrutinise:

- 2.1 The details outlined in this report.
- 2.2 Members approve the timeline set out on page 21 to progress the Band B work programme.

3. KEY ISSUES

- 3.1 Members will be aware that Band A of our 21st Century Programme is well underway. Caldicot Schools opens later this month and Monmouth Comprehensive School is on schedule to open September 2018.
- 3.2 Working with Welsh Government the Local Authority is looking to develop Band B of the programme which will involve the building of a new Comprehensive School in Abergavenny.
- 3.3 Working within Welsh Government timescales, the draft Strategic Outline Programme has been submitted, and members are being asked to scrutinise the proposals that are set out in appendix 1.
- 3.4 The key areas to be considered are that the proposal seeks to address the condition of our school buildings and sufficiency, ensuring that the schools are of an appropriate size and design to meet the needs of 21st Century learning.
- 3.5 The proposal will also incorporate a larger Welsh Medium Primary school, recognising the increase in numbers of pupils choosing Welsh Medium Education, and a new facility, on a dual site to provide Welsh Medium secondary Education within Monmouthshire.
- 3.6 Currently there are two primary schools within the county, educating through the medium of Welsh, but once pupils reach secondary there is no provision

within Monmouthshire and as a result pupils need to attend schools within other authorities.

- 3.7 The original Strategic Outline Programme (2010) held a much wider remit. This included the development of the whole education estate, however as a result of cost pressures identified during Band A, a greater focus has been applied to the revised Strategic Outline Programme for Band B.
- 3.8 The two remaining secondary schools both require developing, however the needs of King Henry VIII are greater due to the condition of the building and the site offers greater potential to develop our policy aims.
- 3.9 King Henry VIII school is situated in a deprived area of Abergavenny and the school holds the highest level of free school meal entitlement within our secondary schools.
- 3.10 The north of the county has traditionally been a focal point of Welsh Language, with Abergavenny hosting the Welsh National Eisteddfod. The Band B programme will allow Monmouthshire to build on this and to meet the priorities of the new administration.
- 3.11 With the emergence of the City Deal and the proposal to abolish the tolls on the two Severn Crossings, it is anticipated that there will be an increase in residents within the Chepstow area, at this stage the changes are unquantified and difficult to predict. The proposal is therefore to consider the development of Chepstow School under band C, when the impact of these will be better known.

4. REASONS

- 4.1 The Strategic Outline Programme has been developed to ensure that any funding available for Band B is used to best support education in Monmouthshire and to develop a school estate that is fit for 21st century learning allowing our pupils the best resources available.

5. RESOURCES

The total cost of the programme is £45.4m with £22.7m being funded from Welsh Government and £22.7m from the Local Authority. The source of this funding has yet to be identified and will be a key focus of the next steps of project development.

6. SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS:

7. SAFEGUARDING AND CORPORATE PARENTING IMPLICATIONS

There are no safeguarding issues or corporate parenting implications associated with this report.

8. CONSULTEES:

DMT
Cabinet Members

9. BACKGROUND PAPERS:

Strategic Outline Programme Band B guidance from Welsh Government
Band A Strategic Outline Programme.

10. AUTHOR:

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11. CONTACT DETAILS:

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