

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL

COUNCIL: 14<sup>TH</sup> JULY, 2025

REFERENCE FROM CABINET: 1<sup>ST</sup> MAY, 2025

**“C331 UPDATE ON SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES FOR LEARNING PROGRAMME – ST RICHARD GWYN (EAWL) (SCRUTINY – LEARNING AND CULTURE) –**

The Cabinet Member presented the report to seek Cabinet approval for the Sustainable Communities for Learning (SCfL) team to submit Full Business Case for St Richard Gwyn High School.

Councillor Birch in referring to the tender costs said it was known that all supplies of building materials and the cost of importing materials and paying skilled workers had increased and the contractor issued the tender to the subcontractors on a 'Not to exceed' figure rather than a competitive tender. The total of the work packages returned from sub-contractors totalled £63.9m. This was over the £59m construction cost that had originally been anticipated, however, there was an opportunity to bring that figure down when undertaking value engineering throughout project delivery.

Funding for the scheme was set out in the table within paragraph 5.5 of the report, however there was no financial commitment at this stage and the report sought approval from Cabinet to proceed with the submission of the Full Business Case.

The Council's contribution of £8.987m was included as part of the Council's Capital Programme. £5.017m of the grant was Net Zero Carbon grant which was 100% funded by Welsh Government, therefore the prudential borrowing required was £3.912m.

The report demonstrated the Council's commitment to 21<sup>st</sup> Century schools for all children and would be the last of the Secondary Schools to be re-built to a high standard in the Vale of Glamorgan and worthy of borrowing £3.912m which would result in a total revenue repayment cost of circa £162k per annum over the next 50 years.

The Leader said that whenever a new school had been opened that the message to the children of the Vale of Glamorgan was that the Council wanted to invest in their future and they were worth every pound spent. There had been an in-depth discussion concerning the £4m shortfall for the scheme and whether it should wait until the Council had the money to cover that shortfall, but it was felt that as this was the final Secondary School to be renewed in the last ten years and should be taken forward if possible and hoped that residents of the Vale of Glamorgan would agree with that investment.

This was a matter for Executive decision.

Cabinet, having considered the report and all the issues and implications contained therein

RESOLVED –

(1) T H A T approval to submit Full Business Case for St Richard Gwyn High School to Welsh Government be granted.

**(2) T H A T the use of Section 15.14 of the Council’s Constitution (urgent decision procedure) be authorised in order for the Sustainable Communities for Learning (SCfL) team to submit Full Business Case by 2nd May deadline.**

Reasons for decisions

(1) To seek grant approval from Welsh Government to develop St Richard Gwyn High School.

**(2) To enable the SCfL team to submit the Full Business Case by 2nd May deadline.”**