

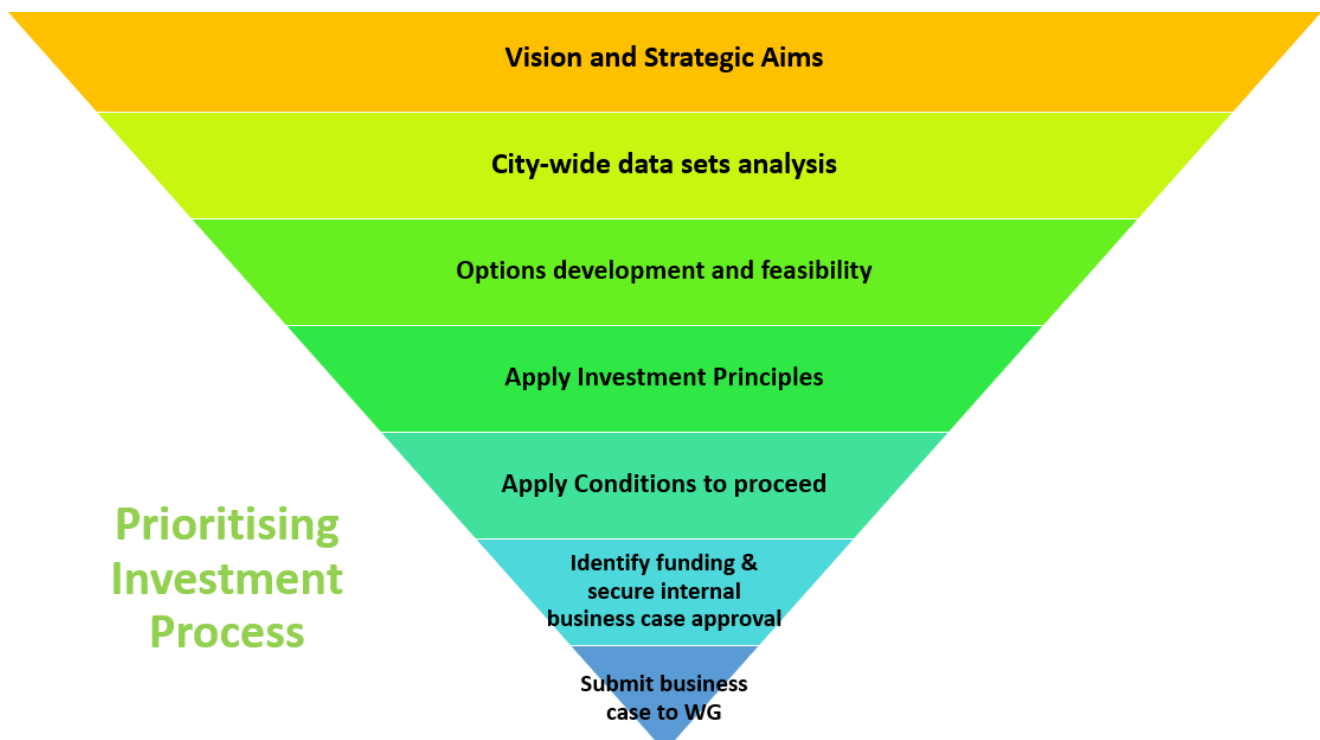
Cardiff's Sustainable Communities for Learning Rolling Programme 2024-2033

These proposals are being brought forward by Cardiff Council under the Sustainable Communities for Learning Rolling Programme which is a large-scale capital investment programme jointly funded by the Welsh Government and individual Local Authorities across Wales. These proposals are aligned to the Education Investment Strategy Caerdydd 2024 – 2033.

The vision is:

Education Investment Strategy Caerdydd 2024 – 2033
We will be Aspirational, Equitable, Sustainable

Process of Prioritising Investment



Supporting Data

The Cardiff school system and the assets within it are kept under constant review as part of our duties in line with the School and Standards Framework Act.

Each school in Cardiff has been considered against a range of quantifiable data and other information to create a long list. These sources include data specific to:

- Sufficiency – sustainable balance of places of each type serving each community.
- Condition – proposals addressing asset maintenance programme.
- Addressing disadvantage – improved opportunities for disadvantaged groups/areas.
- Financial sustainability – revenue costs per place.
- Suitability – facilities that meet the needs of pupils.
- Carbon/ One Planet Cardiff – reduce carbon usage.

Investment Principles

As part of identifying and development of options a full feasibility process will be undertaken aligned to investment principles to narrow down the most pressing issues and the full range of potential solutions. The principles set out below are deemed essential to underpin and develop new projects in the context of citywide data. As part of this strategy any capital investment determined to proceed will:

- 1. Align with local and national policy agendas to improve education outcomes**
 - Demonstrate alignment with national and local policy agendas to ensure successful business case outcomes e.g. the National Mission, the criteria as set out in the Sustainable Communities for Learning Programme Guidance alongside prioritising those that demonstrate greatest potential to make a positive contribution toward improving education outcomes for Cardiff learners and securing best value.
- 2. Targeted investment through maintenance or new build to improve the condition of the estate**
 - Target removal of 'end of operational life' Condition D buildings either through reorganisation of provision with refurbishment and/or replacement.
 - Achieve balance between asset repairs (existing school building stock) and investment in new builds.
 - Replacement of key component parts to improve condition rating of estate.
 - Move from reactive to planned maintenance programme (identified priorities – boilers, roofs, electrics programmes).
 - Reduce the number of 'poor' condition C buildings through targeted refurbishments to help/address asset repairs and planned maintenance programme.
- 3. Ensure sustainable levels of surplus in the estate**
 - Address unmet demand for places through reorganisation or expansion of provision with priority to increase the number and improved distribution of ALN places, Welsh-medium and dual language provision.
 - Remove surplus places through reorganisation alongside implementation of accommodation reduction and repurpose mechanisms.
 - Use of LDP contributions to improve condition and sufficiency of estate with a focus on reorganisation rather than growing the size of the overall estate.

4. Deliver an appropriate balance of ALN provision

- Implement a step change to secure an inclusive education system at all phases and stages from mainstream to specialist provision for the most complex learning needs.
- Address need through an increased number and improved distribution of Welsh-medium and English-medium specialised places.
- Reduce spend on independent sector placements through access to new Cardiff Council special provisions.

5. Meet legislative requirements

- Address works associated with legislative requirements, including The Education (School Premises) Regulations 1999, Construction Design Management (CDM) 2015 and Equalities Act 2010.
- Provide appropriate balance of places in accordance with the School Organisation Code and Admissions Code with the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013.
- Deliver all commitments included in s106 agreements.

6. Maximise scope of invest to save to reduce reliance on borrowing.

- Use investment to enable and support effective use of facilities across collaborations and federations.
- Reorganise provisions to secure best value for provision of learning opportunities that enhance learner engagement and to respond to wider community needs.

7. Strong option appraisal process to underpin robust decision making.

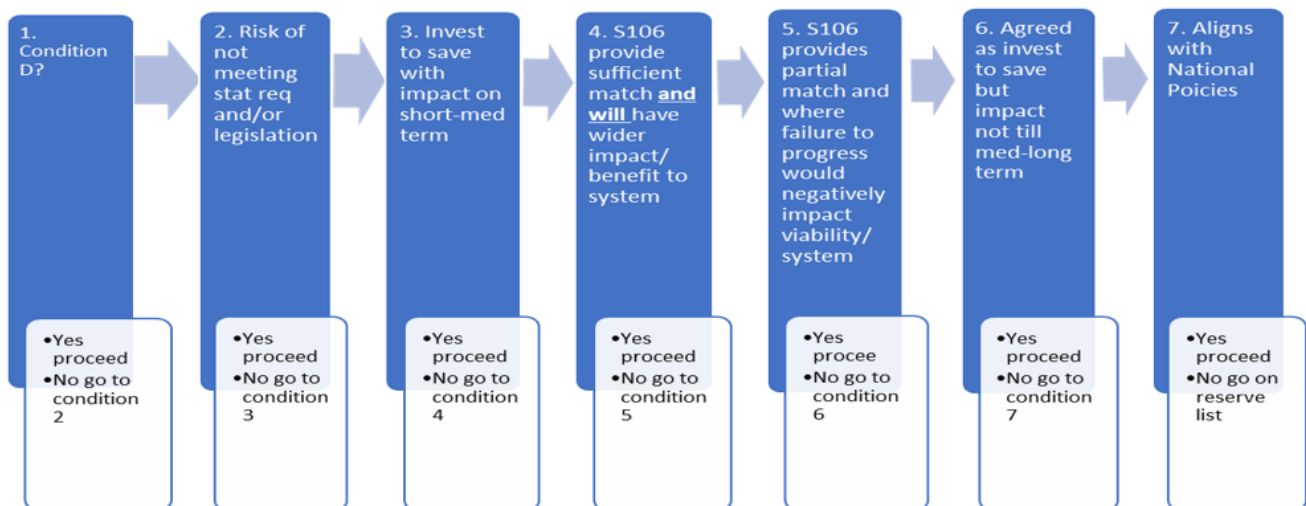
- Demonstrate options for change that provide best education opportunities for learners within their catchment/locality area.
- Maximise use of flexible, agile accommodation to accommodate varying flows of learners.
- Maximise appropriate use of Modern Forms of Construction.
- Demonstrate appropriate balance of affordability and improved whole life costing.
- Demonstrate scope to improve opportunities for Welsh language acquisition and use.
- Reduce carbon use in buildings and travelling to school.
- Options are considered within the overall funding resource, ensuring affordability, and operate within budgetary framework.

The Rolling Programme

The list of projects set out below all align with the Investment Criteria and are consistent with the available datasets. However, change to the organisation of schools and/or education facilities that would necessitate capital investment is dependent on the Council operating an effective strategy which clearly sets out the capital and revenue funding sources whether internal or external. This would include the timing of cashflows and officer accountability on ensuring funding sources materialise. The funding strategy should also note risks should funding sources not materialise and any mitigating actions required. For a project to proceed there will need to be a clear business case that demonstrates affordability at the point of decision to proceed as well as supporting improved sustainability for the future.

Finite financial resources necessitate a priority order of the emerging proposals/projects with all agreed for change and/or investment required to meet the following conditions:

1. Mandated resolution of 'Condition D' buildings
2. High risk of not meeting statutory requirements
3. 'Invest to save' projects identified to positively impact revenue spending over the short to medium term
4. Projects where s106 agreements are in place and contributions provide the match funding required, aligned to a more efficient organisation of existing provision
5. Projects where s106 agreements are in place and contributions provide part of the match funding required, and where failure to progress results in local insufficiency of places and and/or increased home to school transport costs
6. 'Invest to save' projects identified to positively impact revenue spending over the medium to long term
7. Projects which evidence wider alignment with national and local policies and priorities



Based on the citywide data and feasibility consideration against the Investment Principles and the application of the conditions set out above, the following priority projects have been selected for the rolling programme:

Project Name	Total Capital Cost (£m)	WG Contribution (inc NZC) (£m)	LA Contribution (excl Land/ S106) (£m)
Primary School Provision in Fitzalan Catchment Area	£29.6	£19.7	£9.9
Strategic ALN Citywide Investment	£134.3	£102.6	£31.7
Cathays High School	£96.9	£65.2	£31.8
NE LDP Primary Provision	£18.9	£12.7	£6.2
West LDP Primary Provision	£18.9	£12.7	£6.2
St Mary the Virgin CiW	£22.0	£18.9	£3.1
Citywide primary investment, including Welsh Medium	£96.6	£64.4	£32.2
ALN Post 16	£10.9	£8.4	£2.5
Community Focussed Schools Provision	£2.3	£1.6	£0.7
NE LDP Primary and Secondary Provision	£136.2	£91.8	£44.4
NW LDP Primary and Secondary Provision	£108.5	£73.1	£35.3
	£675.1	£471.1	£204.0

Proposals that do not meet these seven conditions will proceed only when funding has been identified either through capital or revenue saving released through implementing projects in the early stage of the programme or where alternative funding has been identified internal or external to Council funds.

Investment proposals and projects later in the programme will in part be dependent on the decisions taken in the initial stages of implementation. This will necessitate bold/considered decisions to rationalise the number of organisations and education sites to reduce surplus with associated:

- Prudent release of sites for sale to secure capital receipt
- Revenue efficiencies for delivery of education where supply exceeds demand

Alternative sources of funding could include but are not confined to:

- Corporate capital finance through sale of other corporate assets or revenue generated through lease/rental agreed for prioritisation toward education
- Utilisation of delegated education budgets
- Private investment with appropriate legal provisions in place
- Alternative public/third sector match/joint commissioning aligned to community focussed schools
- Other grant funding

Once appropriate Council funding has been agreed to support the match required, the proposal would be subject to full business case development and submission.

The programme will be reviewed annually aligned to the Annual Report to ensure the most recent information is applied to support implementation prioritisation connected to spend and need.

Asset Renewal

The core programme for asset renewal is not supported by the Sustainable Communities for Learning Programme, but will be considered against the following agreed priorities with stakeholders:

1. Is it a high Health & Safety risk that can't be managed through a risk assessment or temporary mitigations on site (as advised by the Surveyor/ Health & Safety Officer/ Survey)?
2. Is it a priority safeguarding risk that can't be managed through a risk assessment or temporary mitigations on site (as advised by the Surveyor)?
3. Is there a risk of mainstream school places not being provided that cannot be mitigated elsewhere?
4. Is there a risk of ALN specialist places not being provided that cannot be mitigated by Out Of County or mainstream provision?
5. Is there a risk of legislation/ Equalities Act responsibilities not being met that cannot be mitigated?
6. Is the scheme largely grant funded from Welsh Government (at least 65%)?
7. Is the scheme an 'invest to save' proposal?
8. Other (e.g. less urgent Health & Safety, maintenance, etc)

As priorities progress over time the criteria will be re-considered and adapted.