

21st Century Schools Programme Band B proposals

Wellbeing Impact Assessment Report

This report summarises the likely impact of a proposal on the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of Denbighshire, Wales and the world.

Assessment Number:	268
Brief description:	The proposals for Band B of 21st Century Schools Programme which would be delivered in partnership with the Welsh Government
Date Completed:	09/01/2018 14:04:32 Version: 3
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Responsible Service:	Education & Children Services
Localities affected by the proposal:	Whole County,

IMPACT ASSESSMENT SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

Before we look in detail at the contribution and impact of the proposal, it is important to consider how the proposal is applying the sustainable development principle. This means that we must act "in a manner which seeks to ensure that the needs of the present are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs."

Score for the sustainability of the approach

Could some small changes in your thinking produce a better result?

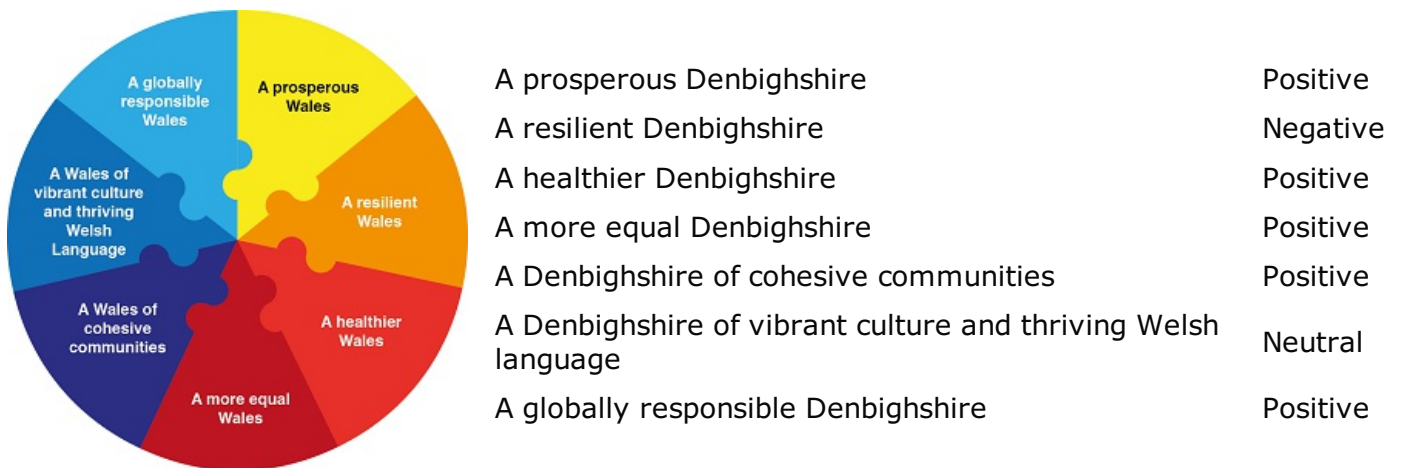


(3 out of 4 stars)

Actual score : 21 / 24.

Summary of impact

Wellbeing Goals



Main conclusions

The progression of the programme for investment for 21st Century Schools should have a positive impact on Denbighshire. The construction phase will lead to increased investment in local companies and improve employment prospects. Site selection may have a negative impact on a resilient Denbighshire and this will need to be carefully considered. The provision of modern buildings should impact positively on a healthier and equal Denbighshire whilst providing an opportunity for a more cohesive community. The impact on Welsh Language will be guided by where investment is made.

THE LIKELY IMPACT ON DENBIGHSHIRE, WALES AND THE WORLD

A prosperous Denbighshire

Overall Impact	Positive
Justification for impact	The investment in 21st Century Schools will provide school buildings which are more energy efficient, provide economic regeneration during the construction phase and should increase the skill base of the local labour market.

Positive consequences identified:

Any projects progressed for new or refurbished buildings are likely to see significant improvements towards energy efficiency in those buildings. The procurement of products will include indicators which encourage local sourcing of products where possible.

The projects will contribute towards economic regeneration via the indicators to secure local spend and employment as part of the contract. The securing of contracts for local suppliers and trades will boost economic conditions in the short term.

The main boost for quality jobs will be during the construction phase which will generally be between 12 - 24 months.

An emphasis will be placed on employment of apprentices and work experience opportunities. This will enhance the skill base of the local labour market and allow such apprentices to be seen to be more skilled for the future.

In many instances we will seek to redevelop existing sites thus minimising change and seeking to take advantage of existing infrastructure. The development of new sites may encourage neighbouring sites to become active assisting development opportunities. The provision of new sites could act as a catalyst for investment in super fast broadband etc.

The projects will seek to examine options for pre-school provision to be located with schools. This will be developed based on existing provision to ensure that a balance is achieved to ensure that existing providers remain viable.

Unintended negative consequences identified:

The overall number of journeys within an area will be increased via the construction project. This will include delivery of materials and the travel of site workers. The re-location of schools may create additional journeys for pupils.

The short term nature of the construction industry may lead to scenarios where trained up apprentices are unable to secure long term employment.

The need for increased training opportunities through the community benefits requirements may lead to a number of skilled operatives unable to secure long term jobs.

Mitigating actions:

The short term nature of construction projects may lead to jobs being available for a limited period. By working with the framework across North Wales to plan projects some of these issues may be overcome.

A resilient Denbighshire

Overall Impact	Negative
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Justification for impact	The development of new sites or significant refurbishments could have an unintended negative consequence on the landscape of Denbighshire as the period of construction will lead to a disturbance of the natural environment.
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Positive consequences identified:

Within the external layout of school sites opportunities to preserve or enhance natural habitats will be maximised to allow such areas to be used to deliver the curriculum. Options will be explored for new buildings to have nesting / roosting areas elsewhere on the site should existing habitat's be disturbed in the provision of a new / refurbished building. Projects are encouraged to meet stringent recycling targets and minimise waste being taken off site. Where demolition takes place unused rubble is sought to be kept onsite for use as base materials for car parks etc. The improvement to buildings will lead to energy efficiency. Any rationalisation of buildings in poor condition will also have a positive impact on energy consumption. The development of projects will give the opportunity for pupils and the local community to become more aware of the existing habitat where a project is taking place. The selection of any site will consider land use policies and relevant WG guidance. Where any risk does arise the need to engineer a solution could lead to an overall reduction in flood risk.

Unintended negative consequences identified:

Development of new school buildings on green spaces is likely to have a negative impact on the natural environment. The refurbishment or demolition of existing properties is likely to lead to the disturbance of wildlife who may occupy such properties. In many instances the buildings may be in a condition where they need replacing rather than refurbishment. This will require careful consideration to the treatment of the waste arising from the disused building. Should the number of school sites be reduced there is a risk that traffic patterns for parents / pupils may be amended with longer journeys required. Concerns may arise from the amendments to the local habitat leading to resistance to any individual project. There is a risk that the development of sites will reduce the extent of permeable land and increase risk of flood in extreme weather.

Mitigating actions:

Where possible design site layouts to ensure disruption is kept to a minimum and areas such as hedgerows be retained where possible. All projects will be required to consider diversity issues and undertake environmental impact assessments as part of the statutory planning process.

A healthier Denbighshire

Overall Impact	Positive
Justification for impact	The development of improved school buildings can have a positive impact on health by providing safer transport links with pedestrian and cycle access considered as part of the design.

Positive consequences identified:

Any project will consider as a matter of course issues around access for the community both in terms of physical accessibility to the site and also how the building and site can be better utilised by the community outside of core school hours.

Any improvements to schools will see consideration to the catering experience for schools. The investment in kitchen areas will enable improvements to the provision, and in recent projects there has been an increase in the number of pupils accessing school meals.

The development of school facilities, particularly at secondary level may see consideration to the improvement in leisure facilities.

Improved learning environment will improve staff, pupil and community morale. The design of classrooms to modern standards will produce a better emotional environment for pupils i.e. noise reduction in classrooms, light levels

Unintended negative consequences identified:

Improvements to school safeguarding may decrease access to school sites and informal play on school sites out of hours.

Any change in provision can lead to resistance from staff, pupils, parents etc.

Mitigating actions:

Such buildings are likely to be utilised more by the community and this needs to be considered very carefully in the design process. The change process can have a detrimental impact on people's emotional and mental well-being and the planning for transition needs to be considered sympathetically, and where appropriate individual plans may be required for pupils.

A more equal Denbighshire

Overall Impact	Positive
Justification for impact	The design of schools will be considered carefully to eliminate areas of concern which could be a barrier for people with protected characteristics.

Positive consequences identified:

All projects will consider accessibility as a key theme during the design stage to ensure that pupils with a disability are not denied access to the full learning experience. Consideration has been given to the provision of unisex toilets or non designation of toilet areas to ensure that transgender users are not discriminated against.

The provision of improved facilities in areas of socio-economic deprivation can lead to an improvement to the sense of value of individuals. This could be via improved access to learning to provide the route for children to escape existing inequalities.

By improving the educational offer through new school facilities the performance of pupils could improve increasing scope for gaining employment.

Unintended negative consequences identified:

Mitigating actions:

None

A Denbighshire of cohesive communities

Overall Impact	Positive
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Justification for impact	By careful and considered design improved facilities can provide a positive impact on cohesive communities by providing facilities which can draw together the local community.
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Positive consequences identified:

The design of any projects will ensure that careful consideration is given to site safety both during the construction phase and then when the site is fully occupied. Where possible improved surveillance will be sought in the design of buildings with passive supervision encouraged. Safeguarding will be considered with a clear demarcation between public and private zones both within the building and the overall site.

The design of the school with more community access could allow the scope for local groups to use the sites outside of school hours. Consideration should be given to the provision of other activities taking place at the site.

The design of the buildings should enhance any area and this will be considered at the planning stage and form part of the consultation.

Unintended negative consequences identified:

The construction phase will have an impact on the community via increased traffic and access to the site for employees and the delivery of building supplies. This could have an impact on individuals during this phase.

In considering community facilities there is a need to ensure that the overall provision is not saturated leading to existing providers becoming unviable.

The construction phase is likely to have a short term detrimental impact on the local community.

Mitigating actions:

The construction stage is likely to have a negative impact on the local community on a short term basis. The project team will need to work with the contractor and the local community to minimise risks and to ensure clear communication at key times.

A Denbighshire of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language

Overall Impact	Neutral
Justification for impact	The impact will be dependent upon whether investment is made in schools / areas to promote Welsh Medium education. Without confirmation of projects it is difficult to confirm whether this is positive. As part of Band A the Council has invested significantly to increase access to Welsh Medium education so this will need to be considered carefully in determining which projects move forward and whether they will impact on the Welsh Language.

Positive consequences identified:

An increase in capacity for Welsh Medium education will be a key theme nationally within Band B of 21st Century Schools. An increase in the number of Welsh learners could increase the overall number of speakers within Denbighshire and Wales.

The building should be encouraged to deliver bilingual signage within the school should it be an English medium school. All public areas will be required to have bilingual signage. Communication with residents and the local community will be bilingual.

Consideration will be given in the design stage to the local heritage of an area so that any building is sympathetic to its neighbourhood.

Unintended negative consequences identified:

The development of new facilities for English medium schools could see parents choose English medium schools rather than Welsh medium based on the quality of facilities rather than the offer available.

Mitigating actions:

Ensure that overall the benefits for Welsh Medium education are understood by parents when making decisions regarding school choices.

A globally responsible Denbighshire

Overall Impact	Positive
Justification for impact	The procurement of contractors and the subsequent construction periods should have a positive impact. Adherence to procurement regulations and statutory responsibilities around Health and Safety will ensure that the projects address such areas.

Positive consequences identified:

The provision of new projects will include community benefits as a key part of the procurement process. This will ensure that the local supply chain can be involved in projects. Main contractors will be encouraged to hold meet the buyer events and provide opportunities for local suppliers to compete for work.

All contractors will be expected to have first class health and safety procedures in place and these will be rigorously examined during the delivery of the project. Workers employed during the process will be expected to be treated equitably.

The scoping of projects for Band B will consider co-location of services in areas to improve the overall quality of service for the community.

Unintended negative consequences identified:

Mitigating actions: