North Wales Local Full Fibre Network Programme

Well-being Impact Assessment Report

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

Assessment Number:	565
Brief description:	The proposed project will be a Local Authority led, UK Government funded initiative to improve public sector digital connectivity and enhance connectivity for the private sector at key local economic sites across north Wales.
Date Completed:	Version: 0
Completed by:	
Responsible Service:	Planning & Public Protection
Localities affected by the proposal:	Whole County,
Who will be affected by the proposal?	Public sector organisations and services, private sector businesses and residents in areas where infrastructure is developed.
Was this impact assessment completed as a group?	No

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

⭐ ⭐ ⭐ ☆   (3 out of 4 stars) Actual score : 25 / 30.

Implications of the score

The proposed project involves each of the Well-being of Future generations Act fives ways of working, being particularly strong in terms of meeting long term needs, preventing problems getting worse, integration and collaboration.

The successful project will deliver these in communities across north Wales and underpin wider exploitation of technology to improve how the wider public sector communicates with service users and delivers effective and efficient services.

The project is seeking to deliver a long term improvement in digital communications infrastructure will have immediate benefits but also support future generations, particularly in terms on supporting employment and broadening of economic activity.

The region has experienced a pattern of lagging behind other parts of the UK with respect to telecommunications infrastructure and this project will serve to prevent this happening where investment is directed.

The project involves a multi partner collaboration with support and in consultation with the private sector.

Summary of impact

Well-being Goals

A prosperous Denbighshire	Positive
A resilient Denbighshire	Positive
A healthier Denbighshire	Positive
A more equal Denbighshire	Positive
A Denbighshire of cohesive communities	Positive
A Denbighshire of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language	Neutral
A globally responsible Denbighshire	Positive

Main conclusions

The project is focused on improving immediate and long term connectivity requirements across the public sector in north Wales and on improving connectivity for SMEs at key local economic sites. In this respect the Well-being Assessment illustrates direct positive impacts across six of the seven

goals and no negative impacts in any.

In supporting greater and more resilient economic activity the project will contribute to a prosperous Denbighshire, in supporting a significant number of healthcare sites the project will support working towards a healthier Denbighshire, in bringing better connectivity to rural areas, the project will contribute to a more equal Denbighshire, in equipping communities with quality connectivity the project will retain and attract residents and businesses, helping to achieve a Denbighshire of cohesive communities, and in helping to introduce new industries and services to previously excluded areas the project will support the objectives of a globally responsible Denbighshire.

Evidence to support the Well-being Impact Assessment

☑ We have consulted published research or guides that inform us about the likely impact of the proposal
☑ We have involved an expert / consulted a group who represent those who may affected by the proposal
☑ We have engaged with people who will be affected by the proposal

THE LIKELY IMPACT ON DENBIGHSHIRE, WALES AND THE WORLD

A prosperous Denbighshire

Overall Impact	Positive
Justification for impact	Economic development has been an important consideration in developing the proposal with this being a key benefit of investing in digital infrastructure, along with improving the connectivity in the public sector.
Further actions required	Maximising the positive impacts will include promoting the availability of the new infrastructure to businesses and ensuring that the public sector maintains an awareness of the wide variety of opportunities to exploit better connectivity.

Positive impacts identified:

A low carbon society	Investments will facilitate tele working and video conferencing, reducing road travel.
Quality communications, infrastructure and transport	Fundamental purpose of project
Economic development	New infrastructure at key economic sites will support existing businesses, facilitate growth of new and existing sectors reliant on the highest quality, affordable digital connectivity.
Quality skills for the long term	It is expected that as more local businesses exploit better digital connectivity, demand for digital skills in the region will increase and employers will invest to maximise the potential of their workforces.
Quality jobs for the long term	Roles requiring digital skills are typically better paid and are increasing as more businesses take on functions that depend on suitably trained staff.
Childcare	None

Negative impacts identified:

A low carbon society	None
Quality communications, infrastructure and transport	None
Economic development	None
Quality skills for the long term	None
Quality jobs for the long term	None
Childcare	None

A resilient Denbighshire

Overall Impact	Positive
Justification for impact	Reducing the need for journeys is the principle environmental impact. The county and wider region will become more economically resilient with competitive digital infrastructure which will attract new industries and employers and retain those which are seeking to grow.
Further actions required	

Positive impacts identified:

Biodiversity and the natural environment	None
Biodiversity in the built environment	None
Reducing waste, reusing and recycling	None
Reduced energy/fuel consumption	Better digital connectivity will support wider use of tele working and video conferencing, reducing road journeys.
People's awareness of the environment and biodiversity	None
Flood risk management	None

Negative impacts identified:

Biodiversity and the natural environment	None
Biodiversity in the built environment	None
Reducing waste, reusing and recycling	None
Reduced energy/fuel consumption	None
People's awareness of the environment and biodiversity	None
Flood risk management	None

A healthier Denbighshire

Overall Impact	Positive

Justification for impact	Both WG and UK consider that greater adoption of digital technology within primary care is becoming more important. It has emerged as a growing trend in private healthcare and provides new options for GPs, nurses, consultants and the public, for example. The proposal also seeks to facilitate the direct communication between healthcare sites, improving the quality and efficiency of the transfer of important information which will in turn support wider serve delivery.
Further actions required	As with all public sector partners, it will be important to ensure that healthcare partners involved fully understand the scope and capacity of new digital communications options to support their operations.

Positive impacts identified:

A social and physical environment that encourage and support health and well-being	None
Access to good quality, healthy food	None
People's emotional and mental well-being	None
Access to healthcare	A substantial part of the upgrades in public sector connectivity involve primary care. Better connectivity here will facilitate a broader choice of how practitioners can communicate with those seeking healthcare, for example, video streaming consultations, where appropriate, reducing the need for long, difficult or inconvenient journeys.
Participation in leisure opportunities	None

Negative impacts identified:

A social and physical environment that encourage and support health and well-being	None
Access to good quality, healthy food	None
People's emotional and mental well-being	None
Access to healthcare	
Participation in leisure opportunities	None

A more equal Denbighshire

Overall Impact	Positive

Justification for impact	A key benefit of the project is that it will reach into rural areas, addressing relatively poor connectivity serving the public sector but also leading to investment for nearby residents and businesses. This connectivity will be of a standard experience more frequently in urban areas and so the project will contribute to reducing this sub regional disparity.
Further actions required	

Positive impacts identified:

Improving the well-being of people with protected characteristics. The nine protected characteristics are: age; disability; gender reassignment; marriage or civil partnership; pregnancy and maternity; race; religion or belief; sex; and sexual orientation	None
People who suffer discrimination or disadvantage	None
Areas with poor economic, health or educational outcomes	It is anticipated that the project will deliver improved connectivity to rural areas with existing public sector presence (e.g. a GP surgery). This investment is expected to lead to better connectivity for those residents in the vicinity of these premises, thereby improving their access to online resources, such as information about accessing health services, educational information, financial state support and employment opportunities.
People in poverty	For those communities benefiting from localised investment, better connectivity will directly improve access to employment opportunities, training and information from relevant support agencies. The wide programme will underpin economic development objectives, including job creation and increasing the number of better paid, highly skilled employment opportunities.

Negative impacts identified:

Improving the well-being of people with protected characteristics. The nine protected characteristics are: age; disability; gender reassignment; marriage or civil partnership; pregnancy and maternity; race; religion or belief; sex; and sexual orientation	None
People who suffer discrimination or disadvantage	None
Areas with poor economic, health or educational outcomes	None
People in poverty	None

A Denbighshire of cohesive communities

Overall Impact	Positive
Justification for impact	The project is fundamentally about improving the ability of the public sector to communicate and in supporting businesses and residents to access better connectivity, with direct interventions in improving infrastructure.
Further actions required	

Positive impacts identified:

Safe communities and individuals	None
Community participation and resilience	Better connectivity will improve the viability of communities, retaining those who may otherwise move away and attracting those for whom good quality connectivity is necessary. This applies to both residents and businesses.
The attractiveness of the area	None
Connected communities	Fundamental part of the project

Negative impacts identified:

Safe communities and individuals	None

Community participation and resilience	None
The attractiveness of the area	None
Connected communities	

A Denbighshire of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language

Overall Impact	Neutral
Justification for impact	
Further actions required	

Positive impacts identified:

People using Welsh	None
Promoting the Welsh language	None
Culture and heritage	None

Negative impacts identified:

People using Welsh	None
Promoting the Welsh language	None
Culture and heritage	None

A globally responsible Denbighshire

Overall Impact	Positive
Justification for impact	The project will improve access to good and services online for those individuals and businesses benefiting from investment. In these communities, some commercial activities previously excluded due to connectivity barriers (e.g. creative industries, digital services, e-commerce) will have the opportunity to relocate and access local and wider markets. Public sector services may also have new capacity to deliver services where previously restricted by connectivity issues (e.g. computer suites / public wifi in libraries, temporary community based staff presence / drop in facilities).
Further actions required	

Positive impacts identified:

Local, national, international supply chains	None
Human rights	None
Broader service provision in the local area or the region	The project will underpin better access to services across the public sector, particularly those delivered by local authorities and health bodies

Negative impacts identified:

Local, national, international supply chains	None
Human rights	None
Broader service provision in the local area or the region	None