

Denbighshire and Flintshire Joint Archive Project

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:	703
Brief description:	The Denbighshire and Flintshire Joint Archive Project will provide a sustainable, efficient and improved archive service for Flintshire and Denbighshire and will be delivered in the following phases: - Phase I – Single Shared Service: the creation of a single shared service operating across Flintshire and Denbighshire - Phase II – New Building: A new purpose built Passivhaus Archive building in Mold - Phase III - Activity Plan: A 3-year activity plan to create and deliver a revolutionary and radical archive service offer to the public.
Date Completed:	12/09/2019 17:02:02 Version: 1
Completed by:	Helen Vaughan-Evans
Responsible Service:	Business Improvement & Modernisation
Localities affected by the proposal:	Whole County,
Who will be affected by the proposal?	At the workshop the following people were identified: - People used to "on doorstep" archive - People using the proposed new site - Archive staff (business case assumes no FTE change but they will need to learn new skills) - Schools - Vacated building x 2 (opportunities for Ruthin Gaol heritage attraction to expand; selling Hawarden site for luxury flat development) - Better physical access for users - New site is on a hill in mold with limited public transport up to it - Health partners - New target audiences which will be developed by the project- Disability (mental health, Dementia, dyslexia); Young people (toddlers, schoolchildren 5 – 18, students 18 – 2, young people 14 – 21, young carers); LGBT+; Low income groups; Prisoners - Library users and staff - Archive Volunteers - Archive Depositors (existing and potential) - Wrexham County Borough Council material - Members and other politicians - Theatr Clwyd (the organisation and its users) - Businesses in Ruthin, Hawarden and Mold

Was this impact assessment completed as a group?	Yes
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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 : 24 / 30.

Implications of the score

The business case does evidence a long term view, particularly on the impact and outcomes it aims to achieve from the delivery of its Activity Plan.

The business case can be improved by considering in greater detail the legacy for the vacated sites in Ruthin and Hawarden, and plans for transport and travel to the new site in Mold (particularly from the bus station in central Mold up onto the hill) including active travel options.

Summary of impact

Well-being Goals

A prosperous Denbighshire

A resilient Denbighshire

A healthier Denbighshire

A more equal Denbighshire

A Denbighshire of cohesive communities

A Denbighshire of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language

A globally responsible Denbighshire

Positive

Neutral

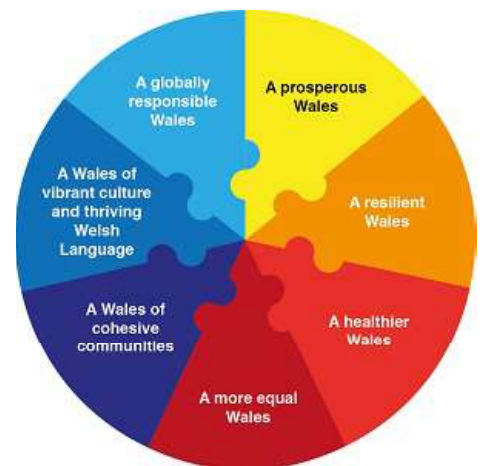
Positive

Positive

Positive

Positive

Neutral



Main conclusions

The business case does well to consider the bigger picture and takes a long term view of its impact and maximising on positive impacts it can make to Well-being goals.

The target audience for the activity plan element of this project particularly are positive. As is the hub and spoke model with more provision within community setting across both Flintshire and Denbighshire. The projects contribution to skills and volunteering also support many of these wellbeing goals.

The business case needs to consider its impact on waste as well as further detail on travel to the new site in Mold. The business case will also be improved by greater consideration as to the opportunities for the vacant space at Ruthin Gaol.

On the whole this project will contribute greatly to the Councils duty under the Future Generations Act.

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	<p>Positive as the Passivhaus building will contribute positively to low carbon society and facilitate increases in visitors to the region.</p> <p>The project will deliver upskilling in staff and users and within target audiences.</p> <p>Co-location with the Theatr means staff and users could benefit from creche facilities providing greater flexibility around employment and working hours and participation in the archive offer.</p>
Further actions required	<p>Need to ensure strong signposting between Theatre Clwyd and the new archives shared service next door. We may need to consider further how our digitisation experience could upskill users as well. We need to continue working on our plans for Ruthin Gaol. There are many challenges, including adaptability. Need to consider that Denbighshire County Council has declared a climate change and ecological emergency. Would there be demand for more frequent services or an additional bus services. Should consider more the positive impact this project can have on tourism across the region.</p>

Positive impacts identified:

A low carbon society	<p>The new building will be built as a Passivhaus building- 80% reduction in energy use and therefore carbon emissions.</p> <p>Potential links to the potential solar farm close to Theatre Clwyd.</p>
Quality communications, infrastructure and transport	<p>We are proposing to increase archives infrastructure and resilience by creating spoke services.</p> <p>There is good mobile infrastructure.</p> <p>Active travel provision</p>
Economic development	<p>Opportunities for Theatre Clwyd to grow and to increase engagement between the archives/theatre productions.</p> <p>Potential benefits for tourism, which need to be scoped further.</p> <p>Also housing developments for the vacant Flintshire site could lead to positive economic impacts. No negative impacts anticipated for the Gladstone Library.</p> <p>USP- only archive collocated with theatre production house</p>
Quality skills for the long term	<p>Opportunities for schools to embed new curriculum.</p> <p>Opportunities for more exciting volunteering opportunities. Also opportunities for staff development.</p> <p>Succession options for conservator functions through apprentice.</p>
Quality jobs for the long term	<p>Again, better opportunities for skilling up workforce and for working with a wider range of users.</p>

Childcare	In theatr there is going to be child care and creche facilities. Could be helpful for staff and visitors.
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Negative impacts identified:

A low carbon society	Staff and users potentially travelling longer distances by private car. Business case assumed a four fold increase in business travel for staff. The Gaol will still need to be maintained and heated, continuing to contribute to DCC's carbon emissions.
Quality communications, infrastructure and transport	Access to the proposed site via public transport could be challenging. This is a challenge across both Counties in existing state- not necessarily any worse in new state but should be noted. Safety of active travel
Economic development	There is a risk that parts of the Gaol will become vacant. Potential negative impact on leisure and hospitality in Ruthin/Hawarden sites (cafes, shops, hotels and B&Bs).
Quality skills for the long term	Knowing the skills that need long term difficult- for users mainly. Current staff may be lost due to ease of getting to new work place.
Quality jobs for the long term	Potential restructure over the longer term could affect staff.
Childcare	Not yet known

A resilient Denbighshire

Overall Impact	Neutral
Justification for impact	The impact has been put as neutral pending waste/reuse/recycling being more thoroughly considered. Forecast that the overall impact could become positive though due to the plans around the landscaping around the Archive and the connectivity to the surrounding landscape. Solar farm and Passivhaus design contributes positively to energy and fuel consumption.
Further actions required	Loss of trees would be off set by re-planting. We need to check if current trees are 'in memory of'.... The business case needs to consider waste and recycling.

Positive impacts identified:

Biodiversity and the natural environment	No protected species currently on the site or at either existing sites.
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Biodiversity in the built environment	<p>No protected species currently. Formalised garden and landscape area, particularly focussed on being dementia friendly.</p> <p>We proposed to take a re-wilding approach that is sympathetic to the preservation of archive materials (eg no increase in paper-eating insects).</p> <p>Theatre Clwyd and Archive Connection through landscape. Theatre Clwyd is also aspiring to redesign the layout at the front of the theatre.</p>
Reducing waste, reusing and recycling	No known impacts - to be considered
Reduced energy/fuel consumption	<p>Solar PV planned.</p> <p>Potential links to potential solar farm linked to the proposed site.</p>
People's awareness of the environment and biodiversity	<p>Proposed to have interpretation boards within the landscaped area along walk ways.</p> <p>Spaces created for people to stop and sit and be with nature.</p>
Flood risk management	Landscaping will factor in water attenuation which will be apart of managing surface water.

Negative impacts identified:

Biodiversity and the natural environment	Potential loss of six trees, dependent on the design.
Biodiversity in the built environment	Not yet known
Reducing waste, reusing and recycling	No known impacts - to be considered
Reduced energy/fuel consumption	Any increase in archive-related fuel use is expected to be minimal.
People's awareness of the environment and biodiversity	Not yet known
Flood risk management	Not yet known

A healthier Denbighshire

Overall Impact	Positive
Justification for impact	<p>Positive impact on mental health and the wellbeing is potentially big from this project- in particular the funded activity plan.</p> <p>Need to manage carefully the change in location and approach of the archive service delivery for existing users so any detrimental impacts are lessened/avoided.</p>
Further actions required	<p>Forgotten disabilities eg autistic people, who would like to participate but the environment might not be suitable - this needs to be considered.</p> <p>Supporting change process amongst staff and users required Active travel provision to site been to be considered and included</p>

Positive impacts identified:

<p>A social and physical environment that encourage and support health and well-being</p>	<p>Spoke services incentivise library access.</p> <p>Mold service will be designed to be dementia friendly, engaging.</p> <p>Dedicated space for learning. The WFG Act well-being goals are being embedded in curriculum and there are opportunities to promote the facility to schools.</p> <p>Physical space will be more accessible to more people, with different needs.</p> <p>Physical connectivity to Theatre Clwyd could create new and exciting theatre opportunities.</p>
<p>Access to good quality, healthy food</p>	<p>Theatr Clwyd cafe and restaurant plans- using local food.</p>
<p>People's emotional and mental well-being</p>	<p>Opportunities to bring people together to combat loneliness.</p> <p>Opportunities to use primary archive material in dementia- visiting places of interest as well as archive material.</p> <p>Helping with people with loss- remembering loved ones, how and when and where they live.</p> <p>Opportunities to learn and to volunteer which increase wellbeing.</p>
<p>Access to healthcare</p>	<p>Opportunities to link in with social prescribing to treat conditions....archive service to offer solutions here.</p>
<p>Participation in leisure opportunities</p>	<p>Combined visitors to Theatr Clwyd and Archive.</p> <p>Activity programme out in communities.</p> <p>Both increasing opportunities for participation. Also these activities will be designed to target groups that don't normally participate.</p>

Negative impacts identified:

<p>A social and physical environment that encourage and support health and well-being</p>	<p>Reliance on cars to get to mold hub potentially reducing active travel options</p>
<p>Access to good quality, healthy food</p>	<p>Not yet known</p>
<p>People's emotional and mental well-being</p>	<p>Impact on users about this change- location of archive and the look of the archive- need to be managed carefully</p>
<p>Access to healthcare</p>	<p>Not yet known</p>
<p>Participation in leisure opportunities</p>	<p>If all these opportunities are in the Mold hub then this could be a barrier to participation.</p>

A more equal Denbighshire

<p>Overall Impact</p>	<p>Positive</p>
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Justification for impact	<p>The target audiences that this project will develop include those with protected characteristic.</p> <p>To ensure this remains positive the project will need to manage the potential contention of increasing and opening access at same time as needing to deliver a resilient service that can stand on its own 2 feet economically.</p>
Further actions required	<p>The project should maximise on any opportunities to contribute to 2025 movement- eradicating inequality by 2025. Also project will benefit from clear branding for activity programme and careful scheduling of activities at the site to ensure a welcoming and appropriate environment for all users.</p>

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	<p>Target audience include- dyslexia, LGBT+, those with protected characteristics</p>
People who suffer discrimination or disadvantage	<p>Activity plan target audiences include: Prisoners and on probation. Young carers. Actively engaging. This will be easier in new site rather than the gaol!</p> <p>Ways archive operate and collections held may change by this engagement.</p> <p>Creating vibrant environment.</p>
Areas with poor economic, health or educational outcomes	<p>Often those with other protected characteristics above also lower economic background too so increasing provision and outcomes for these groups will also be positive in this category.</p>
People in poverty	<p>Basic archive function will remain free at point of access.</p>

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	New site which wants to be vibrant and busy. For some users this may be off putting.
People who suffer discrimination or disadvantage	Need to ensure that those on lower incomes are not excluded due to travel to new hub or any fees and charges regime
Areas with poor economic, health or educational outcomes	Facilitating people to come to site who may not be able to afford transport- may miss out
People in poverty	Fees and charges related to new types of service delivery- may be a barrier

A Denbighshire of cohesive communities

Overall Impact	Positive
Justification for impact	<p>It should be noted that for this category for Denbighshire the impact is more neutral but regionally its positive. In particular this is around the effort needed to travel to mold to the new hub.</p> <p>However on the whole the benefits the project will bring to community participation and reliance and its targeting of the prison communities makes this impact positive.</p>
Further actions required	The business case can be bolstered by: - Linking with Youth Justice service on the activity plan - Linking with local groups already in existence- current partnerships- often meet in libraries. Note: assumption that libraries will stay open as is for 25 years.

Positive impacts identified:

Safe communities and individuals	<p>Rehabilitation approach- with men at Wrexham prison and those on probation- reducing the likelihood of reoffending and increasing skills.</p> <p>Feeling of sense and understanding of history and area meaning less likely to deface memorials for example</p>
Community participation and resilience	<p>The project aims to engage with a broader range of stakeholder.</p> <p>Connection with the Theatre could lead to greater interaction with our shared heritage and history.</p> <p>Opportunities for volunteering will increase</p>

The attractiveness of the area	Local projects to improve the area- connecting people to deliver e.g. memorials- in villages etc.
Connected communities	Heritage out into communities- they will learn more about the background of their local area. Using heritage to generate feeling of belonging. Regional community cohesion- Old Clwyd + Wrexham. Increased reason to visit the library.
Rural resilience	Potential to increase visitors into Ruthin if ambitions around Ruthin Gaol are realised. Activity programme- more outreach going to rural isolated areas

Negative impacts identified:

Safe communities and individuals	Walk up to "the hill" at mold- may be perceived as difficult in early/late day and during winter
Community participation and resilience	Need to ensure a balance of activity at the hub in mold and out in communities across Flintshire and Denbighshire
The attractiveness of the area	Loss of green space of field adjacent to Theatr Clwyd. Potential loss of existing tree
Connected communities	Travel to mold site may be a barrier
Rural resilience	Feeling of loss - reason for coming into Ruthin gone e.g. in context of loss of banks etc

A Denbighshire of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language

Overall Impact	Positive
Justification for impact	The project is all about increasing access to culture and heritage. The collections have a lot of Welsh relevant aspects to them and the project will mean these are better cared for and interpreted and shared.
Further actions required	The business case would be improved by considering in greater detail the opportunities for Ruthin Gaol following Archive vacation.

Positive impacts identified:

People using Welsh	Compliance with Welsh Language Standards Combining the team gives access to more capacity of welsh speakers- 2 welsh speakers in FCC and 1 in DCC.
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<p>Promoting the Welsh language</p>	<p>Unique element of our collection is our welsh language collection. e.g. Welsh Bible collection- biggest outside of National Library.</p> <p>Global draw.</p> <p>Working with National Library on touring exhibitions in welsh language.</p> <p>Showcasing welsh culture.</p> <p>Bringing together welsh language collection.</p> <p>Theatr Clwyd Welsh Language programme</p>
<p>Culture and heritage</p>	<p>Connection with the Theatre will lead to greater interaction with our shared heritage and history.</p> <p>Opportunity for expansion of existing heritage attraction at Ruthin Gaol (items of interest, education room etc).</p> <p>Facilities around culture and heritage in localities (libraries and temporary community programme)- more spread than just the 2 locations currently.</p>

Negative impacts identified:

<p>People using Welsh</p>	<p>Staff recruitment in an area of the hub which has a lower welsh speaking population may reduce staff using welsh language</p>
<p>Promoting the Welsh language</p>	<p>Perception of moving to an area which is less welsh than ruthin</p>
<p>Culture and heritage</p>	<p>Financial challenges around making ambitions around Ruthin Gaol a reality- capital and revenue investment.</p> <p>70% vacate space at Ruthin Gaol.</p>

A globally responsible Denbighshire

<p>Overall Impact</p>	<p>Neutral</p>
<p>Justification for impact</p>	<p>On the whole the project is assessed as neutral on global responsibility.</p>
<p>Further actions required</p>	<p>The business case could be bolstered by greater engagement with potential partners to ensure maximum mutual benefits could be realised. Opportunities around procurement to facilitate good outcomes in this area should be taken at the appropriate time, especially with the construction contract.</p>

Positive impacts identified:

<p>Local, national, international supply chains</p>	<p>The Passivhaus design reduces reliance on fuel which is a finite commodity and exported from abroad.</p> <p>The new site will use café facilities at the Theatr which will be using local supplies.</p>
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Human rights	<p>Target audience include those with dementia which tend to be those who are older.</p> <p>Potential partnership with Alzimas society and contribute to being dementia friendly organisation.</p> <p>Themed activity around human rights using stories within our collections.</p>
Broader service provision in the local area or the region	<p>There are great opportunities to engage with partners.</p>

Negative impacts identified:

Local, national, international supply chains	<p>Materials used for the build potentially originated from further afield</p>
Human rights	<p>Target audience of those in prison could be contentious.</p>
Broader service provision in the local area or the region	<p>At this stage is there adequate engagement with partners?</p>