

Review of Ruthin Primary Area provision

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:	830
Brief description:	The impact assessment seek to examine the impact of the Ruthin Area Primary Review based on the seven elements of the Wellbeing goals.
Date Completed:	Version: 0
Completed by:	
Responsible Service:	Education & Children Services
Localities affected by the proposal:	Ruthin,
Who will be affected by the proposal?	Pupils, parents and staff at the schools in the Ruthin area were impacted on by the proposal.
Was this impact assessment completed as a group?	Yes

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 : 23 / 30.

Implications of the score

This assessment considers the overall impact of the Ruthin Area Review. The adopted approach looked at maintaining existing service methods rather than different approaches. All consultation was undertaken in accordance with legislation and the requirement of the school organisation code.

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

Positive

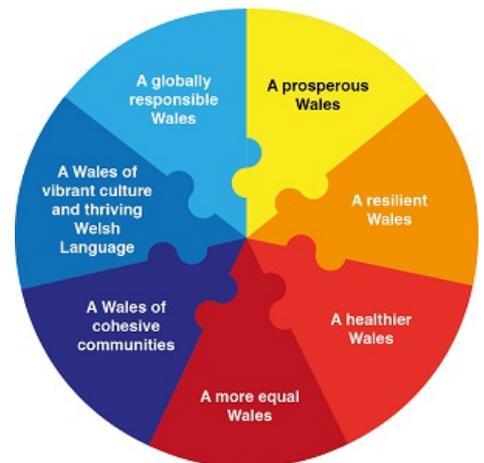
Positive

Positive

Positive

Positive

Positive



Main conclusions

The overall impact of the review has been assessed as positive for each wellbeing goal.

The impact on a prosperous Denbighshire is positive as the construction phase of each project provided opportunities to engage with local labour market and supply chains. It also created opportunities for the creation of apprenticeships. A direct consequence of the construction projects was an investment into the local infrastructure including highways, safe routes to schools and flood management features. The completed proposals has led to the vacation of six school buildings which were generally in poor condition, inefficient to run and with a poor layout. The creation of onsite facilities for preschool children has improved wraparound childcare options for working parents and transition between pre-school and nursery.

The impact on a resilient Denbighshire is clear as there has been extensive investment in biodiversity and energy efficient features in all schemes. The investment in flood risk management at Glasdir and the potential for redundant sites to become woodland areas support the view that the impact is positive.

The review has delivered an increase in opportunities to promote healthy lifestyle as a result of investment in onsite and offsite facilities. The links to existing active travel routes from the new sites and an increase in numbers of pupils accessing school meals support the view that the impact has been positive. In addition the use of part of a vacated site for the expansion of facilities on the adjacent hospital site strengthens this judgement.

The positive impact with regards to cohesive communities is clear as the decision to invest and retain local rural school provision will benefit local communities to retain young families and contributes towards strengthening the Welsh language across the area.

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 be 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>Proposals led to the vacation of six school buildings - buildings generally in poor condition, inefficient to run and in layout.</p> <p>Investment in routes and highways - safe route to school planned for Llanfair, infrastructure at Glasdir.</p> <p>Co-location of childcare at schools improves wraparound options for working parents and transition between pre-school and nursery</p> <p>Replacement sites now predominately on gas.</p> <p>Decision to retain rural provision offset potential increase in travel.</p>
Further actions required	Eligibility for home to school transport would mitigate provision lost in some areas. Redeployment procedures used extensively.

Positive impacts identified:

A low carbon society	<p>Proposals led to the vacation of six school buildings - buildings generally in poor condition, inefficient to run and in layout</p> <p>Three sites were on oil reducing reliant on fossil fuels for energy.</p> <p>Replacement sites now predominately on gas</p> <p>Decision to retain rural provision offset potential increase in travel</p>
Quality communications, infrastructure and transport	<p>Improved connectivity for schools were investment was made - some areas saw changes in investment patterns</p> <p>Investment in routes and highways - safe route to school planned for Llanfair, infrastructure at Glasdir</p>
Economic development	<p>Strong emphasis on community benefits - targets met for local spend.</p> <p>Benefits for local suppliers - used by main contractors, benefits to convenience sector - accommodation, meals etc</p>
Quality skills for the long term	Commitment to training from main contractors, sessions with local schools regarding future employment and skills
Quality jobs for the long term	<p>Success of project enabled local staff to obtain permanent jobs</p> <p>Larger sites or schools could create improved job prospects</p>
Childcare	<p>Purpose built facilities</p> <p>Co-location with schools improves wraparound options for working parents and transition between pre-school and nursery</p>

Negative impacts identified:

A low carbon society	External decisions led to the retention of two buildings in poor condition. This retains the maintenance requirements for these buildings. Potential increase in travel for pupils with reduced number of sites
Quality communications, infrastructure and transport	Lack of infrastructure in rural areas impacted on timescales for delivery of projects - i.e. requirement for drainage tank for Ysgol Carreg Emlyn
Economic development	None
Quality skills for the long term	None
Quality jobs for the long term	Nature of projects usually 10 to 18 months may restrict long term planning for jobs Reduction in staffing due to reduction in sites
Childcare	Loss of some settings

A resilient Denbighshire

Overall Impact	Positive
Justification for impact	Extensive investment in biodiversity and energy efficient features in all schemes. Potential for redundant sites to become woodland areas. Flood risk management in Glasdir.
Further actions required	Projects worked with biodiversity officers to provide mitigating facilities, bat lofts at Glasdir & bat boxes at Llanfair - sites being monitored.

Positive impacts identified:

Biodiversity and the natural environment	Installation of infrastructure to support local wildlife - emphasis on retaining hedgerows where practical - main boundary at Glasdir is retained hedgerows
Biodiversity in the built environment	Projects worked with biodiversity officers to provide mitigating facilities, bat lofts at Glasdir & bat boxes at Llanfair - sites being monitored. Liaison with local groups to utilise facilities at sites - gardening groups use of polytunnels
Reducing waste, reusing and recycling	Schools designed to meet BREEAM targets - heavy emphasis recycling, waste diversion and energy efficient solutions. Use of sustainable systems in build - SIP panels at Glasdir, Llanfair and Clocaenog - sustainable buildings and insulation material Significant furniture used by other schools within Denbighshire Recycling of existing facilities - portable structures moved to new sites
Reduced energy/fuel consumption	Buildings designed to be more energy efficient PV panels installed at school sites - options to offset energy costs via use of reusables
People's awareness of the environment and biodiversity	Projects increased people's awareness - individual pupil sessions by contractors to raise awareness

Flood risk management	Investment at school site at Glasdir reduced flood risk due to mitigating measures and contributed to development of Taylor Wimpey housing at Glasdir site. Mitigation works in Clocaenog to offset risks for flood in village - improved drainage
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Negative impacts identified:

Biodiversity and the natural environment	Loss of green field sites and hedgerows (some of the sites designated in LDP for housing development)
Biodiversity in the built environment	None
Reducing waste, reusing and recycling	None
Reduced energy/fuel consumption	Number of retained sites remain energy inefficient - issues to be addressed via capital investment by building maintenance
People's awareness of the environment and biodiversity	None
Flood risk management	Different site management requirements to manage flood risk

A healthier Denbighshire

Overall Impact	Positive
Justification for impact	Increase opportunity to promote healthy lifestyle as a result of investment in onsite and offsite facilities. Link to existing active travel routes. Use of the vacated site for expansion of health care facilities on the adjacent hospital site. Increase in numbers of pupils accessing school meals.
Further actions required	Mitigation - consideration to transition arrangements - visits to new sites during construction for all pupils Communication with local residents - communication of awareness of key milestones

Positive impacts identified:

A social and physical environment that encourage and support health and well-being	Improved learning environment Full access to school halls and MUGA's for physical exercise. Improved connectivity for access to schools - safe routes to schools Scope for 1-2-1 / small group sessions to support pupil wellbeing Links between pre-school and statutory provision
Access to good quality, healthy food	All new sites now have on site dining facilities - number of sites either had insufficient dining facilities or used classrooms as main facility for eating

People's emotional and mental well-being	Welcoming learning environment
Access to healthcare	Vacated site has enabled expansion in facilities at Ruthin hospital
Participation in leisure opportunities	Ruthin active travel route was considered as part of the project improving connectivity from Glasdir to the town of Ruthin. Location links local leisure facilities. Potential use of sites for community groups, sites using school halls

Negative impacts identified:

A social and physical environment that encourage and support health and well-being	Number of schools remain on site which do not meet criteria for 21st Century Schools facilities
Access to good quality, healthy food	None
People's emotional and mental well-being	Impact of change on pupil's wellbeing - move to different or new sites Disruption to local residents during construction period
Access to healthcare	N/A
Participation in leisure opportunities	None

A more equal Denbighshire

Overall Impact	Positive
Justification for impact	Investment has enhanced faith and Welsh language provision More school sites in the area are fully accessible.
Further actions required	Accessibility works to be undertaken on a needs basis on other sites.

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	Investment has enhanced faith and Welsh language provision. Accessibility on all Band A sites. Use of hearing loops, automatic doors, learning design sympathetic for learning difficulties - scope for break out sessions for ALN pupils. Toilets designed to be capable of being gender non-specific. Enhanced acoustics and compliance with BB93 standard.
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People who suffer discrimination or disadvantage	N/A
Areas with poor economic, health or educational outcomes	Improvement in facilities for pupils living in rural isolation which enable better access to services at their nearest school.
People in poverty	Construction phase targeted economically inactive - engagement with NEET's community benefits Affordable childcare based around school settings to allow parents to return to work

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	Issues remain which impact on accessibility access - identified issues would be addressed on a needs basis
People who suffer discrimination or disadvantage	N/A
Areas with poor economic, health or educational outcomes	Reduction in rural sites may impact on accessibility for pre-school provision where transport is non statutory.
People in poverty	None

A Denbighshire of cohesive communities

Overall Impact	Positive
Justification for impact	Investment has sought to maximise connectivity - shared routes Glasdir / Llanfair. Decision to invest and retain local rural school provision will benefit local communities to retain young families in those areas. Safeguarding a key issue in design of new sites, secure boundaries, dedicated zones for parents / pupils, security lighting, CCTV coverage.
Further actions required	The new area school provision has a strong rural identity and ownership of the identity is broader than the village where the building is located.

Positive impacts identified:

Safe communities and individuals	Safeguarding a key issue in design of new sites, secure boundaries, dedicated zones for parents / pupils, security lighting, CCTV coverage. Dedicated car parks and improved access via paths etc.
Community participation and resilience	Scope for school to be greater focus, scope for outside use by the community
The attractiveness of the area	Schools designed to be sympathetic to local area, use of local materials. New schools seen to be stimulus to local developments and house purchases - seen as strong reason for location to villages via new facilities available
Connected communities	Investment has sought to maximise connectivity - shared routes Glasdir / Llanfair Infrastructure developed around school sites
Rural resilience	Decision to invest and retain local rural school provision will benefit local communities to retain young families

Negative impacts identified:

Safe communities and individuals	Number of issues remain with existing sites that will need to be resolved via Safeguarding / Maintenance funds etc
Community participation and resilience	Loss of school facilities and connectivity within two local villages
The attractiveness of the area	Villages without schools could be seen as a negative
Connected communities	None
Rural resilience	None

A Denbighshire of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language

Overall Impact	Positive
Justification for impact	Increase in capacity for welsh medium education. Promotion of Welsh language during construction phase, encouragement for the use of Welsh medium staff in locality - assisted with communications. Ability to hold celebratory events on school sites - schools without access to halls unable to hold events - now have modern facilities. lighting and sound to hold eisteddfodau and cultural events.
Further actions required	Continuous investment through the school maintenance budget in older school sites.

Positive impacts identified:

People using Welsh	Increase in capacity for welsh medium education, Co-location of pre-school provision / cylch has improved attractiveness of offer Pre-school provision increased in welsh medium schools
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Promoting the Welsh language	Promotion of Welsh language during construction phase, encouragement for the use of Welsh medium staff in locality - assisted with communications. Improved facilities for promotional activities outside of school settings
Culture and heritage	Ability to hold celebratory events on school sites - schools without access to halls unable to hold events - now have modern facilities. lighting and sound to hold eisteddfodau

Negative impacts identified:

People using Welsh	Perception re bias towards investment in Welsh Medium education Impact of Judicial Review amended approach for Llanfair and Pentrecelyn proposals - Pentrecelyn remained a category 1 school - facilities may impact on future admissions
Promoting the Welsh language	None
Culture and heritage	Impact on community of local buildings of note

A globally responsible Denbighshire

Overall Impact	Positive
Justification for impact	Use of local labour and strong application of community benefits - targets being met via North Wales Framework. Improved facilities has improved the standing of the local educational offer.
Further actions required	No mitigation required.

Positive impacts identified:

Local, national, international supply chains	Use of local labour and strong application of community benefits - targets being met via North Wales Construction Framework rules. Use of a range of local, national supply chains based on complexity of provision
Human rights	Considerate contractor - strong emphasis on health and safety and well-being during the construction phase
Broader service provision in the local area or the region	Improved facilities has improved the standing of the local educational offer

Negative impacts identified:

Local, national, international supply chains	None
Human rights	None

Broader service provision in the local area or the region	None
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