

BUSINESS CASE – CAPITAL INVESTMENT

This Business Case provides justification for undertaking a project. The completed form will be reviewed by the Capital Scrutiny Group who will make a recommendation to Cabinet or CET whether the bid should be approved and included within the Capital Plan. All sections should be completed and evidence of costs will need to be supplied. Please ensure the checklist at Appendix A has been completed.

For details of Capital Scrutiny Group Meeting dates and deadlines for the submission of this form, please contact capitalbids @denbighshire.gov.uk

Project Name:	Ysgol y Llys Childcare Facility
Project Manager:	Lowri Roberts (Modernising Education) / James Wood (Principal Manager
Work stream/Programme (if applicable):	Childcare and Early Years Capital Programme (Welsh Government Scheme)

1. PROJECT TYPE

Head of Service i.e. Project Sponsor	Rhiain Morrlle, Head of Children's Services	Lead member:	Cllr Gill German
Service:	Children's Services	LM Portfolio:	Lead Member for Education, Children and Families
Form completed by:	Lowri Roberts (Modernising Education)	Date:	31/10/2023
Finance Capital Team contact:	Sian Jackson	Service Accountant (for revenue implications if applicable)	

Please categorise your project type. Mark one box only.

SMALL	MEDIUM	LARGE X
<£250k	>£251 -	>£1m
	£999k	

DECISION SOUGHT FROM CAPITAL SCRUTINY GROUP:	To recommend that this business case proceeds for submission to the Welsh Governments Childcare and Early Years Capital Programme.	
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2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Highlights the key points in the Business Case to include: -

- what the project will achieve / important benefits
- estimated costs
- how the project will be funded

This project would deliver a standalone new build childcare facility in the Prestatyn area with a total estimated cost of £2,221,611. The childcare provider that would utilise this facility would be the existing 'Cylch y Llys'. The current Cylch is operating from within a small space in the main school building of Ysgol y Llys. The current provision has capacity for 70 places, however the setting is full with a constant waiting list with limited scope to operate within the current space. The project will deliver an expansion of places, this will increase from 70 places to 90. The current provision is full and there is a constant waiting list, the current provision cannot increase places as they utilise a small space within the school and there is no further scope for expansion within the school building. It will also address the current gap of Welsh medium Flying Start provision within the area as this setting falls within the expansion area but currently cannot accept additional children due to being at capacity.

The new development is proposed to be adjacent to the main school building which will allow the pre-school provision to operate independently from the school whilst retaining the benefits of being co-located. This will be of benefit to parents and caregivers who may have children attending both settings and underpins a smooth transition from early years provision to the foundation phase. In turn this would support stable pupil numbers for Ysgol y Llys, it is more likely that a child attending childcare offered on a school site will then go on to attend that school due to ease of transition. Ysgol y Llys have seen a small decrease in numbers since the Covid pandemic. The school was extended as part of Tranche 3 Welsh Medium school funding in 2014.

It is proposed that the building will have 3 main rooms (to measure approx. 70m2), toilets, storage and ancillary space with a footprint of approximately 320m2. The development will also have its own dedicated outdoor area for the pre-school to allow for outdoor activities which will be separate and as not impacting on the school. The building will meet the requirements of the *'National Minimum Standards for Providing Care for Children up to 12 years'*. A detailed design brief is being developed alongside this business case which will be submitted for further feasibility and design works to take place subject to the award of funding.

Overall, this project supports the delivery of all the main capital grant criteria, including:

Welsh Medium Provision

The project supports Outcome 1 of the WESP by increasing the number of places from 70 to 90. The existing pre-school provision is Welsh Medium (supported by Mudiad Meithrin). The project will improve the overall facilities whilst expanding the provision for a further 20 pre-school places. Ysgol y Llys is the only Welsh Medium primary school setting in the town of Prestatyn and Cylch Y Llys is the only Welsh medium preschool provision. The school was extended in 2014. The school has a full-time capacity of 420 pupils with 60 part time nursery places. As of January 2023, there are 312 full time pupils and 32 part time nursery pupils.



The historic pupil numbers since 2017 are displayed below. Since the pandemic there has been a small decrease in the schools' pupil numbers.

Ysgol Y Llys	PLASC 2017	PLASC 2018	PLASC 2019	PLASC 2020	PLASC 2021	PLASC 2022	PLASC 2023
FT No. On Roll	318	329	333	352	342	334	312
PT No. On Roll	56	49	56	52	43	43	32
Total	374	378	389	404	385	377	344

Pupil projections currently demonstrate a decrease in expected pupil numbers over the coming years.

Ysgol Y Llys	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028
Projected NOR FT Only	308	298	299	280	269

The delivery of a 90-place pre-school provision on site would assist in ensuring that pupil numbers remain stable with a view to increasing due to the co-location of the pre-school provision on the same site. Currently the pre-school provision is utilising a small space within the school, in the longer term with the school increasing pupil numbers and reaching capacity this would no longer be a viable option as the provision is already at capacity with a constant waiting list.

By the end of the ten-year plan DCC expect to see an increase in the percentage of 3-year-old children educated through the medium of Welsh to over 30%. There is also a target for more Welsh medium preschool capacity in the Rhyl and Prestatyn areas where there is current capacity in the primary schools for more pupils. There is also a commitment in the WESP for more children to access Flying Start through the Medium of Welsh.

The proposed building will be large enough to host support and engagement sessions for parents such as Clwb Cwtsh which introduces Welsh words and phrases for parents and carers to use at home with their young children, Ti a Fi Parent and toddler sessions and parenting classes arranged through Flying Start.

Co-Location / Cohesive Communities

The project will deliver a co-located pre-school provision and primary provision from the ages of 2 to 11. The co-location of the pre-school and primary school will provide both settings with flexibility especially between the pre-school provision and Foundation Phase providing pupils with continuity of provision.

Flying Start

This project is linked to Denbighshire's Flying Start expansion plan; the project would support the current provision as it is a registered Flying Start childcare setting. It is the only Welsh language Flying Start setting in the Prestatyn area. This project will strengthen this provision and the ability to provide 12 and a half hours free childcare per week via Welsh medium as there is currently a gap with the provision at capacity.



Childcare Offer

The last childcare sufficiency assessment for Denbighshire (2022) highlighted several gaps and areas for improvement which this project would help to address. This includes a perceived lack of Welsh Medium provision by providers and parents, especially outside of the Rhyl area. The parent survey found that 22.9% access childcare via the Medium of Welsh, 59.5% stated that they would like to access childcare via the medium of Welsh. Welsh Language data for the County shows a significant increase in the number of Welsh speakers over the last decade, this suggests that demand for Welsh medium childcare will not fall in the near future and will likely increase.

The pre-school will have more autonomy from the school as it will be located in a designated facility, this will allow for the pre-school provision to have more flexibility such as amending opening hours etc. There are two standalone childcare settings in Prestatyn and the other school settings all offer onsite childcare run by third parties. It is likely that if a child cannot get a place at the Welsh medium provision they will attend another setting. This does mean that is more than likely they will then attend the school with the childcare offer to minimise disruption of transition for the child.

3. BUSINESS OPTIONS

Analysis and reasoned recommendation for the base business options of: do nothing / do the minimal or do something.

You must include an environmentally enhanced (net carbon zero/ecologically positive compatible) option. If your project is a business development project, then this may not be relevant.

Option 1: Do nothing – maintain the existing situation Please provide brief details: This option would see the continuation of the status quo at Ysgol y Llys regarding the pre-school provision. Cylch y Llys currently operate within a small area of the main school building and there is no scope for further expansion. Please mark with an X how this option compares with the preferred option in terms of Cost, Time, Quality and Benefits:

Costs	Costs more		Time	Takes longer to deliver	
	Costs the same		-	Takes the same to deliver	
	Costs less	Х		Is quicker to deliver	Х
Quality	Improves the quality		Benefits	Improves benefits	
	Is the same quality			No impact on benefits	
	Is a lower quality	Х		Worsens benefits	Х
What is the main	n reason this option has n	ot been	selected?		

This option would not meet any of the outcomes and targets contained with the Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP), likewise it would not deliver any further capacity in Welsh medium childcare within the area or support the Flying Start expansion and actions from the Childcare Sufficiency Assessment. It is likely that as the pupil numbers at Ysgol Y Llys increase the current flexibility to host the Cylch within the main building will reduce causing issues for the provision of the pre-school in the short and medium term. This would not also deliver a purposely designed childcare environment which would be a significant benefit.



Option 2:	Do Minimum – Inc	Do Minimum – Increase capacity in the current setting					
Please provide b	rief details:						
Work with the sch	ool to increase the capac	ity within	the school bu	ilding to accommodate 20	more		
childcare places.							
Please mark with	an X how this option c	ompares	with the pre	ferred option in terms of	f Cost, Time,		
Quality and Bene	efits:						
Costs	Costs more		Time	Takes longer to			
				deliver			
	Costs the same			Takes the same to			
				deliver			
	Costs less	Х		Is quicker to deliver	Х		
Quality	Improves the quality		Benefits	Improves benefits			
	Is the same quality			No impact on			
				benefits			
	Is a lower quality	X		Worsens benefits	X		
What is the main	What is the main reason this option has not been selected?						
This option does r	not meet all of the objecti	ves for th	e project, alth	ough it would provide mo	re capacity for		
the pre-school it w	ould be at the expense of	any futu	re growth with	in the school itself. The cu	rrent provision		
is already restricte	ed to a small space within	the scho	ool, the provis	ion is also full with a waitii	ng list so there		
is no scope to secure a permanent expansion of space within Ysgol y Llys.							
			_				
Option 3:	Do Intermediate -	Relocat	e to an alterr	native site or premises			
Please provide b	rief details:						

Please provide	Di lei detalis.				
This option would explore taking the current provision 'off-site' to an alternative site or premises for either					
a refurbished set	ting or a new build.				
Please mark wit	th an X how this option c	ompares	with the pre	ferred option in terms of	f Cost, Time,
Quality and Ber	nefits:	-	•	•	
Costs	Costs more	Х	Time	Takes longer to	Х
				deliver	
	Costs the same			Takes the same to	
				deliver	
	Costs less			Is quicker to deliver	
Quality	Improves the quality		Benefits	Improves benefits	
	Is the same quality	Х		No impact on	
				benefits	
	Is a lower quality			Worsens benefits	Х
What is the mai	n reason this option has	not beer	selected?		

This option would likely be costly as it is unlikely an alternative site or premises would be owned by Denbighshire which would incur further costs. Additionally, this would not deliver a key benefit and strategic aim of co-location.



Option 4:	Deliver a Purpose Built 90 Place Childcare Facility on the Existing Ysgol y
	Llys Site (Preferred Option)

Please provide brief details:

This option would see the delivery of a purpose built childcare facility with provision of 90 places. The facility would be located adjacent to the main school site as to continue and enhance the benefits of colocation.

Please mark with an X how this option compares with the preferred option in terms of Cost, Time, Quality and Benefits:

Costs	Costs more	X	Time	Takes longer to deliver	Х
	Costs the same			Takes the same to	
				deliver	
	Costs less			Is quicker to deliver	
Quality	Improves the quality	Χ	Benefits	Improves benefits	X
	Is the same quality			No impact on benefits	
	Is a lower quality			Worsens benefits	

What is the main reason this option has been selected?

This option meets all of the project objectives including wider strategic aims of both the Council and the Welsh Government. It would increase the Welsh medium pre-school provision in the area addressing concerns raised via the Childcare Sufficiency Assessment and support the delivery of Outcome 1 of the WESP as well as supporting the Welsh Governments Cymraeg 2050 aspiration. This option also delivers numerous benefits from the co-location on site alongside a Welsh medium primary school which would be convenient for parents and care givers with children of differing ages attending either the childcare or primary settings. Furthermore, it will strengthen the Flying Start provision in the area and will be a collocated primary and preschool site offering seamless transition from a childcare setting to Foundation Phase.

4. EXPECTED BENEFITS

The benefits that the project will deliver expressed in measurable terms against the situation as it exists prior to the project. Remember to capture co-benefits (the added benefits we get from this action/project as well as the direct benefits it will realise).

This project would deliver a number of benefits, namely:

- An increase in the availability of Welsh medium childcare places in the Prestatyn area
- Supports longer term sustainability of the Welsh medium setting which in turn will ensure the pupils numbers at Ysgol y Llys remain stable
- Colocation of the two setting (preschool and primary provision) will aid in transition of children to the Foundation Phase
- Expands the provision of Flying Start and specifically Flying Start childcare provision via the medium of Welsh
- A new purpose built childcare focused environment to inspire learning and play
- The design of the new build would meet Net Carbon Zero principles

These are some high level benefits that the project would deliver, as the project progress other more detailed benefits will emerge. Community benefits will also be delivered, these benefits have not been identified as a contractor would need to be appointed before engagement on community benefits can take place.



5. EXPECTED DIS-BENEFITS

Outcomes perceived as negative by one or more stakeholders

 Neighbouring residential area to the school which may mean residents are not supportive due to the need for a period of construction.

6. TIMESCALE

Over which the project will run (summary of the Project Plan) and the period over which the benefits will be realised

The project plan below is a high-level plotting of the key milestones, this has been based on the delivery of similar schemes with instruction from other internal teams such as Design and Construction. This baseline plan will be developed into a detailed scheme as the project progresses, the confirmation of a successful contractor will heavily influence the detailed scheme of works to be delivered and the below timescales are subject to contractor involvement at a later stage.

Date	Milestone
November 2023	Submit Business Case to SIG
December 2023	Submit Business Case to Welsh Government
March 2024	Develop Design Brief
June 2024	Pre-planning consultation
August 2024	Planning Submission
September 2024	Planning Approval
January 2025	Construction Start
July 2026	Construction Completion
August 2026	Handover
September 2026	Facility Opens

7. CAPITAL COSTS – BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

COMPLETE ALL THREE TABLES BELOW FOR BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS LEAVE BLANK/DELETE SECTION FOR CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

The capital cost of a project is an important consideration in terms of whether or not it should proceed. Note that even some Business Development Projects may have a requirement for capital costs, for example to fund the acquisition of new ICT hardware or undertaking alterations to buildings.

- Any costs relating to ICT infrastructure and equipment should have been provided by ICT department
- Any costs that relate to construction should have been provided by Design & Development or Building Services



Please provide details of any expenditure incurred already on the project:				
Enter details of cost element below:	Total £			
Feasibility (surveys, market research, etc.)				
Client side project management				
OTHER (please enter)				
OTHER (please enter)				
TOTAL				

Please provide details of the capital funding requirement (not including amount already spent):						
Enter details of cost element below:	2023/24 £	2024/25 £	Future Years £	All Years Total £		
Feasibility (surveys, market research, etc.)						
Client side project management						
ICT infrastructure and hardware						
Building alterations						
Design Team Fees (architects, QS, etc.)						
Furniture						
Other professional support (legal, etc.)						
Marketing/Consultation						
External Project Support (gateway review, etc.)						
OTHER (please enter)						
OTHER (please enter)						
OTHER (please enter)						
OTHER (please enter)						
TOTAL						

Please provide details of proposed capital funding sources						
Enter details of funding source	Status:	2023/24 £	2024/25 £	Future Years £	TOTAL £	
TOTAL						

NOTE: For funding status, please only use the following categories:

- Approved written approval for the funding exists
- Applied no written approval exists but an application has been made
- Approached initial approach to or by funding body has been made but no application submitted
- None no contact or approach has been made to or by the funding body



8. CAPITAL COSTS - CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

LEAVE BLANK/DELETE SECTION IF BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS SECTION HAS BEEN COMPLETED

COMPLETE ALL THREE TABLES BELOW FOR CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS ONLY

The capital cost of a project is an important consideration in terms of whether or not it should proceed.

- Any costs relating to ICT infrastructure and equipment should have been provided by ICT department.
- Any costs that relate to construction should have been provided by Design & Development or Building Services.

Please provide details of any expenditure incurred already on the project:				
Enter details of cost element below:	Total £			
Feasibility (surveys, market research, etc.)				
Client side project management				
OTHER (please enter)				
OTHER (please enter)				
TOTAL	£0			

Please provide details of the capital funding requi	rement (not inc	cluding amoun	t already sp	ent):
Enter details of cost element below:	2023/24 £	2024/25 £	Future Years £	All Years Total £
Feasibility (surveys, market research, etc.)				
Client side project management				32,832
Land/property acquisition				
Land preparation/remediation				
Demolition and/or site security				
Construction, refurbishment or maintenance				1,535,985
BREEAM rating of "Excellent"				
Security measures (CCTV, door entry, etc.)				
Fire prevention measures (sprinklers, etc.)				
External landscaping and other works				
Highways work				
ICT infrastructure and hardware				
Fixtures & fittings				
Furniture				
Planning/Building Regulation Costs				
Design Team Fees (architects, QS, etc.)				191,998
Legal Costs and Fees				
Marketing/Consultation				
External Project Support (e.g. gateway review)				
Contingency				307,197
Client Contingency				153,599
OTHER (please enter)				
OTHER (please enter)				
TOTAL	177,729	2,043,882		2,221,611



Please provide details of proposed capital funding sources						
Enter details of funding source	Status:	2023/24 £	2024/25 £	Future Years £	TOTAL £	
Welsh Government Childcare and Early Years Capital Programme	Approached				2,221,611	
TOTAL						

NOTE: For funding status, please only use the following categories:

- Approved written approval for the funding exists
- Applied no written approval exists but an application has been made
- Approached initial approach to or by funding body has been made but no application submitted
- None no contact or approach has been made to or by the funding body

9. REVENUE COST IMPACT

TO BE COMPLETED FOR ALL PROJECTS

In considering whether a project should be developed due regard should be made to the potential impact on revenue budgets.

If the activity will result in a requirement for additional revenue funding, please provide details below:						
What is the impact of this project in terms of the <u>annual</u> revenue requirement for:	Existing Revenue Budget £	Post- project Revenue Budget £	Increase/ (Decrease) £			
staff costs (salaries and associated)						
energy costs (heating, lighting, ICT, etc.)						
property maintenance and servicing costs						
other property related costs (rental, insurance, etc.)						
ongoing ICT costs (licences, etc.)						
mileage of Denbighshire fleet vehicles						
mileage for business travel by Denbighshire employees using their personal vehicles						
OTHER (please enter)						
OTHER (please enter)						



OVERALL REVENUE REQUIREMENT		

Please provide brief details of the revenue impact of this project:

- Where revenue savings are forecast, you should detail what is proposed for the saving (e.g. reduction of an existing revenue budget, re-allocation of revenue to alternative services area, etc.)
- Where revenue increases are forecast, you should provide details of how the revenue shortfall will be addressed. In this instance you should also append a three-year surplus/deficit forecast.
- Details of any one-off revenue cost requirements that may be required post-project implementation (e.g. recruitment, redundancies, etc.). DO NOT include any costs detailed in the capital section of this Business Case

The childcare facility would be a DCC owned building, but the childcare provider (Cylch Meithrin) would be the tenants, they would pay a rental fee to DCC for use of the facility. This will have VAT implications, the Council can opt to tax the building which would mean that VAT would be charged on the rent to the childcare provider and that would resolve the VAT issue.

10. PROJECT MANAGEMENT

Please provide details of proposed project management – Establishment of Project Board etc.

The project will be overseen by a Project Manager based in the Modernising Education Team which sits within the wider Education and Children's Services department. The scheme will be included within a wider portfolio of projects for the Childcare and Early Years Capital Programme for Denbighshire. All project progress, including those within the Childcare and Early Years Capital Programme such as this scheme, will be reported quarterly to the Modernising Education Board, this is made up of the following members:

- Corporate Director- Communities
- Head of Education
- Head of Finance and Audit
- Lead member for Education, Children's Services and Public Engagement
- Lead member for Finance, Performance and Strategic Assets
- Lead officer Corporate Property and Housing
- Principal Manager School Support

The project sponsor will be Rhiain Morrelle. The project will be reported via Denbighshire's internal Project Management software system VERTO. This is based on Prince2 methodology which ensures that the project is properly led, planned, resourced, monitored and controlled. All risks, issues and benefits are managed at an individual level by the project manager via Verto.



11. STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS / HEALTH & SAFETY

This section should identify how the activity will help Denbighshire meet any of its statutory requirements. Please include any Health & Safety Issues that the activity will address in this section. Please leave blank if not applicable.

The new facility would need to meet all statutory requirements such as being H&S compliant. Safeguarding and age appropriate measures will also be embedded in the design principles which will follow the guidance set out by Care Inspectorate Wales.



12. CARBON MANAGEMENT IMPACT

Please consult with Council's Principal Energy Manager (<u>robert.jones@denbighshire.gov.uk</u>) and the Council's Climate & Ecological Change Programme team (climatechange@denbighshire.gov.uk).

Denbighshire has committed to reducing its carbon emissions from buildings and fleet by 60%by 2030, for the Council to be net carbon zero by 2030 (buildings, fleet, waste, business travel, staff commuting, street lighting) and for the Council to reduce its supply chain emissions by 35% by 2030.

The Business Case requires you to make a forecast for the anticipated carbon emissions impact of the project.

Annual Forecasts:	Annual (current)	Carbon (kgCO2e)	Annual (Post Project)	Carbon (kgCO2e)	Carbon Variance	Comments
Money spent on external goods and services (UNIT= £)	N/A	ТВС	TBC	TBC	TBC	
Energy consumption in buildings: (UNIT = kWh)	N/A	TBC	TBC	TBC	TBC	
Energy consumption in Street Lighting: (UNIT = kWh)	N/A	TBC	TBC	TBC	TBC	
Fuel consumption of Denbighshire Fleet vehicles: (UNIT = litres/ kWh)	N/A	TBC	TBC	TBC	TBC	
Mileage of Business Travel (personal vehicles): (UNIT = miles travelled)	N/A	TBC	TBC	TBC	TBC	
Mileage of Staff Commute: (UNIT = miles travelled)	N/A	TBC	TBC	TBC	TBC	
Tonnes of waste produced: (UNIT = tonnes)	N/A	TBC	TBC	TBC	TBC	
One off Forecasts:			Project cost (£)	Carbon (kgCO2e)		Comments
Money spent on external goods and services (UNIT= £)	£1,755,32 9		£2,214,68 9	401,760		Carbon calculated on costs of £1,755,329 to not include contingency costs of £459,360. The majority of the projects carbon impact is from construction.
TOTAL CARBON EMISSIONS		401,760				

Annual Forecasts:	Current	Carbon	Post	Carbon	Carbon	Comments
		Absorptio	Project	Absorptio	Absorptio	



Annual Forecasts:	Annual (current)	Carbon (kgCO2e)	Annual (Post Project)	Carbon (kgCO2e)	Carbon Variance	Comments
		n		n	n	
		(kgCO2e)		(kgCO2e)	Variance	
Hectare of Grassland						
(UNIT=ha)						
Hectares of Forestland						
(UNIT=ha)						
TOTAL CARBON						
ABSORPTION						

Please highlight the appropriate cell depending on whether on balance this project helps, hinders or is neutral to the Council's goal to become net carbon zero by 2030 (reducing carbon emissions and increasing carbon absorption).

Net Carbon Zero	HELPS	HINDERS	NEUTRAL
Council Summary			

Please provide brief details of the carbon impact of this project, and detail specific actions that will be taken to reduce carbon emissions. If carbon emissions are expected to increase as a result of this project, please provide details of proposed actions to compensate for this increase in other areas of the Service's activity and/or via tree planting/land management for the benefit of carbon sequestration.

The project will be delivered in line with the Net Carbon Zero principles. The new building will make use of energy efficient / carbon neutral technologies to meet both the Local Authorities Corporate Priority 'A Greener Denbighshire' to become a Net Zero Carbon organisation by 2030 and the Welsh Governments 'Net Zero Wales' plan. The design specification will request an A rated energy use building.

However, it is accepted that not all carbon incurred during the construction phase can be offset and therefore this proposal will hinder.



Climate Change Lead Officer statement:

From the information provided this project will Hinder the council achieving the targets of the Climate and Ecological Change Strategy. However, the new building provides opportunity to produce a building which can adapt to future climate impacts.

Overall, Carbon Impact – 401,760 kgCO²e Client-side project management – 4,222 kgCO²e Construction, refurbishment, or maintenance – 367,488 kgCO²e Design Team Fees (architects, QS, etc.) – 30,050 kgCO²e

Energy Usage and Future Adaptability

It is positive to read that the new building will be A rated for energy use and there is an opportunity here to make sure that it uses sustainable energy production. This could ensure the energy use impacts of the building will be lower going forward.

Considerations could also be around future incidences of extreme heat when designing the building. Young children are more vulnerable during heat waves and extreme heat is more likely in the future. Incorporating passive external shading to the building will reduce the need air conditioning use.

For more support with energy please speak to Principal Energy Manager Robert Jones robert.jones@denbighshire.gov.uk

Supply Chain and Construction It is likely that the carbon impact of the works will be from the supply chain and the £1,531,200 spend on construction. Construction projects often represent significant spend under carbon intensive categories. Therefore every effort should be taken within the procurement activity of this spend to specify the works for the benefit of low carbon (eg via the use of lower spend lots to open the field to local SME's), to assess the bids from a low carbon consideration (eg including quality criteria questions with a scoring weighting) and monitor carbon emission performance of the chosen contractor (eg through contract management, provision of data).

When procuring furniture and other internal items the project could seek recycled or pre-used refurbished items rather than buying brand new.

For more information on low carbon procurement please contact Procurement Business Partner – Decarbonisation Roberta Bailey <u>Roberta.Bailey@denbighshire.gov.uk</u>

Local Climate Impacts

There is inland flood risk in areas to the west and north of the school site (https://flood-risk-maps.naturalresources.wales/?locale=en). Construction activities and loss of green space on the school site has the potential to contribute to that flood risk which could impact the local community. The project should consider how the site can be enhanced to increase surface water adsorption through environmental enhancements.

The way the works are carried out should be sensitive to the surrounding environment including not disrupting green verges and controlling heavily surface run off into surrounding ecosystems. Any procurement over £25k should seek Community Benefits and I would encourage the project manager to focus their negotiations with the contractor around securing additional interventions for the benefit of low carbon, biodiversity improvements, carbon sequestration and/or climate and ecological change education/awareness

For more information and support on community benefits please contact Community Benefits Manager Karen Bellis <u>Karen.Bellis@denbighshire.gov.uk</u>

Supplied by: Aileen Charteris **Date:** 09/11/23



13. BIODIVERSITY IMPACT

Please consult with Denbighshire's Biodiversity Lead Officer. Contact Joel Walley on joel.walley@denbighshire.gov.uk.

The Council has a statutory duty to ensure compliance and enforcement of the Habitats Regulations (as amended in 2017). Furthermore, the Environment (Wales) Act, 2016 requires the Council to maintain and enhance biodiversity, and promote the resilience of ecosystems. At this pre-feasibility stage, please determine the anticipated impact of the project on biodiversity, and proposed measures to ensure the project results in an overall biodiversity enhancement.

Please mark a cross in the appropriate box.

Will this project impact on a habitat that supports living organisms	Yes	Χ	No	
(plant or animal), or involve physical works to property or Land?				

If you have answered yes to the above question, please complete all the following biodiversity sections. If answered no, please leave blank

IMPACTS ON BIODIVERSITY		Yes		No	X
Has an ecological appraisal or survey taken place?	the site or proposals				
Cofnod eMapper Link:					
Please provide brief summary of survivors	findings, or provide a cop	y of the	ecolo	gical re	port for

An ecological survey has not yet been carried out for this proposal and the specific area of land that would be used to develop the childcare facility. This is expected to take place during the detailed design and feasibility stages prior to any planning permission submission. The business case has not yet been approved formally by the Welsh Government, once approval has been granted funding can be drawn down to undertake any required ecological assessments at the site. The main school building was extended in 2014, during this process a bat and bird survey was carried out but this focused on the main school building and some surrounding trees, it concluded that there was no evidence of recent activity at the site.

An ecology and habitat assessment were also undertaken as part of the planning process in 2012. It concluded that 'none of the habitats are considered of importance in either a national, regional or local context'. It is important to note this was undertaken in 2012, as previously stated updated ecology assessments would be carried out.

*This planning document can be produced upon request



Please provide brief details of how the project will avoid harm to biodiversity.

An ecological survey for the land earmarked for development will be undertaken prior to planning. The survey scope will include an evaluation of the site as well as any recommendations and mitigations that would be required as a result.

Please provide brief details of how the project will <u>mitigate and compensate</u> for any harm to biodiversity.

Should there be any negative impact this would be mitigated appropriately. At this stage the detail of how this would be undertaken is an unknown until a full appraisal is undertaken.

Please provide brief details of how the project will <u>enhance</u> biodiversity and restore ecosystem resilience.

As part of the development of the outdoor facility the childcare provider will be engaged around options for biodiversity areas for learning opportunities. For the purposes of this business case at early project stage and the fact the building will be developed on land that could be habitat we have stated this project 'hinders', however we would take mitigating actions such as the introduction of habitat areas, planting of trees / hedgerows and inclusion of bat and bird boxes as part of the development.

Please highlight the appropriate cell depending on whether on balance this project helps, hinders or is neutral to the Council's goal to become ecologically positive by 2030 (increasing the species richness of land).

Ecologically Positive Council Summary	HELPS	HINDERS	NEUTRAL
Ecology Officer sum	mary:		
Name:	Date:		
name:	Date:		

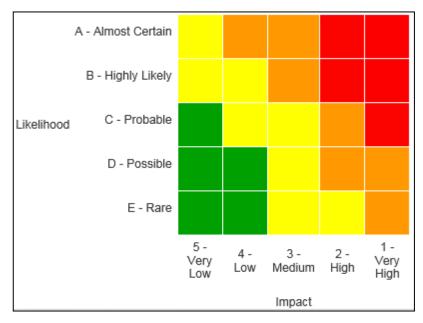


14. MAJOR RISKS TO THE PROJECT

A summary of the key risks associated with the project together with the likely impact and plans should they occur is provided below:

Title	Inherent Risk	Mitigating Action	Residual Risk
Increase in costs / Insufficient Funding		 Costs are scrutinised at every stage of the project to ensure any cost increases are identified at the earliest possible opportunity to ensure costs do not escalate. Regular communication between the project team, finance and the Welsh Government will take place to ensure all parties are made aware of emerging financial issues. 	
Planning Permission is refused / delayed		 Early engagement to take place with Local Authority planners to ensure all statutory requirements are fully addressed within the planning application. Consultation will be required with other key stakeholders such as the school, local residents and any other local community groups who may be impacted by the proposal. A pre- planning consultation event will take place so that should there be any issues they can be addressed at the earliest opportunity. 	
Project Slippage		A detailed programme of works will be developed by the Project Team. This programme will be robustly monitored for any potential slippage issues and contingency / mitigation of pressure points will be built into the overall programme.	
Future Childcare Sustainability		 The current setting is financially stable, the proposal would extend availability of places strengthening this position. The Local Authority will work with the provider to maximise opportunity for grant funding applications wherever possible. The project address a gap in current provision therefore any current sufficiency risk will be mitigated by the delivery of this project. 	







15. SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Please list any supporting documents that accompany this Business Case

Documents required to be presented with Business Cases:

For bids >£1m: Wellbeing Impact Assessment

For grant funded schemes: Grant application or offer letter For external contributions: written confirmation from contributor

For CERA: confirmation from Management accounts For Prudential Borrowing: quote from Capital Team

Well-being Impact Assessment

16. COUNTY LANDLORD STATEMENT

Please provide a statement from the County Landlord and where applicable the recommendation of the Asset Management Group..

The proposals are supported. Given the timescale of the development cost analysis will need to be undertaken at all preconstruction freeze points to ensure the works can be delivered within available budget, taking into account any inflationary/market cost increases. The proposals should comprise a highly thermally efficient external envelope and include sufficient renewable/green energy provision to achieve net zero carbon in operation for the proposed building and, if possible, to offset energy use on the site overall.

Net zero carbon (embodied and operational) would be the ideal scenario and should be explored, it is recognised that offsetting via sequestration etc. may not be achievable on an existing operational site.

Supplied by: David Lorey Date: 09/11/2023

17. CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER STATEMENT

Please provide a statement from the Chief Finance Officer.

Should the bid to WG for 100% grant funding from Childcare and Early Years Capital Programme be successful this will assist the council to increase Welsh medium childcare provision in the Prestatyn Area, assist in sustaining demand for school places through the medium of Welsh in the area, and expands Welsh medium flying start provision in the area which are positives. Responsibility for day to day running of the service and revenue costs will fall to the provider. There are VAT implications associated with this capital project which need to be worked through and need to be considered as part of any decision made at CSG.

Supplied by: Liz Thomas Date: 13 November 2023



APPENDIX A – PROCEDURE CHECKLIST

		Completed - date
Draft Business case sent to capitalbids@denbighshire.gov.uk for distribution to relevant officers	N.B. A minimum of five working days must be allowed for these officers to respond	03/11/2023
VAT accountant rhys.i.jones@denbighshire.gov.uk to check for vat implications	N.B. The Chief Finance Officer must be copied in to	09/11/2023
Finance Capital Team contact as detailed on page 1	the email to these officers to demonstrate they have	06/11/2023
Service accountant if revenue implications applicable		
Chief Finance Officer statement obtained		13/11/2023
County Landlord statement obtained	1	09/11/2023
Carbon management impact statement obtained		13/11/2023
Biodiversity impact statement obtained		No response
Final completed Business Case sent to capitalbids@denbighshire.gov.uk		13/11/2023



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: 1283

Brief description: The project will deliver a purpose built childcare facility adjacent to the existing Ysgol y Llys Welsh medium school. The childcare facility will be for a maximum of 90 children, the childcare will be Welsh medium.

Date Completed: [TEXT HERE] Version: 0

Completed by: [TEXT HERE]

Responsible Service: Education and Children's Services

Localities affected by the proposal: Prestatyn,

Who will be affected by the proposal? Existing users of the childcare provision at Ysgol y Llys

Was this impact assessment completed as a group? Yes

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: 32 / 36.

Summary for each Sustainable Development principle

Long term

Sustainable development is key to this project, it is being proposed to ensure that over the medium

and long term there is sufficiency of Welsh medium childcare within the Prestatyn area. Currently the

childcare provision is based within Ysgol y Llys, as the pupil numbers at the school increase there will

be less flexibility for the childcare provision. The delivery of a purpose built 90 place standalone

childcare building collocated on the school site will benefit both the childcare provision and school.

The new build will be designed to ensure long term sustainability, including the use of technologies to

meet the aspiration of the Council to be Net Zero by 2030.

Prevention

The childcare facility development is linked with the expansion of the Flying Start Plan for

Denbighshire. Flying Start promotes independence and resilience for families, this project will widen

access. The project will also ensure that the childcare provider remains a sustainable business within

the area as the only Welsh medium childcare provider in Prestatyn.

Integration

The project seeks to maximise a number of benefits for a number of national, regional and local

policies. Crucially the project will help deliver Outcomes 1 and 2 of the authorities Welsh in Education

Strategic Plan. The project also addresses issues raised as part of the most recent Childcare

Sufficiency Survey, this proposal will deliver increased Welsh medium childcare for over 2s in the Prestatyn area. In increasing Welsh medium childcare the project underpins the core aims of the Welsh Governments policy 'Cymraeg 2050' to increase the number of Welsh speakers. Furthermore the project will deliver the benefit of colocation, utilising space on the school site the childcare facility will be standalone but will provide continuity of provision for children attending the childcare before moving to the Foundation Phase. The project will encourage wider community engagement and ties, predominantly through engagement with families. The project is linked with a number of Well-being goals including within the Future Well-being of Generations Act, specifically it supports 'A Wales of Vibrant Culture and Thriving Welsh Language' and 'A Wales of Cohesive Communities'. The scheme will be designed in accordance with the Net Carbon Zero agenda for decarbonisation and biodiversity. These principles will form the baseline for the function of the new building and associated outdoor spaces. Additionally the project will widen access to the Flying Start programme which is being expanded across Denbighshire. The LDP has been considered and the planned number of places has been based on an assessment of housing developments in the area to ensure adequate capacity over time.

Collaboration

The proposal has been developed between Education and Children's Services teams, as well as via engagement with the childcare provider at Ysgol y Llys in addition to the school.

Involvement

Robust engagement will take place once funding has been allocated for the project, primarily this will be within the wider Education and Children's Service teams, the childcare provider at Ysgol y Llys and the school itself via the Headteacher and Governing Body. Engagement will be wider at various stages of the project, including linking with Active Travel, Climate Change and Design and Construction teams within the Council.

Summary of impact

Well-being Goals	Overall Impact
A prosperous Denbighshire	Positive

Well-being Goals	Overall Impact
A resilient Denbighshire	Positive
A healthier Denbighshire	Positive
A more equal Denbighshire	Positive
A Denbighshire of cohesive communities	Neutral
A Denbighshire of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language	Positive
A globally responsible Denbighshire	Positive

Main conclusions

Overall the impact of the project will be positive. The project is in the early initiaiton stage, this version of the WBIA is a highlevel desktop exercise but will be revisited with a wider range of stake

The likely impact on Denbighshire, Wales and the world.

A prosperous Denbighshire

Overall Impact

Positive

Justification for impact

The impact on a prosperous Denbighshire will be positive as the project has many cross cutting themes to support this as outlined above.

Further actions required

Should any negative impacts arise actions to mitigate will be explored.

Positive impacts identified:

A low carbon society

The new building will be designed in line with Net Carbon Zero principles to ensure the building is energy efficient.

Quality communications, infrastructure and transport

The building will be provided with infrastructure to support digital such as data points and whole building wifi coverage. Opportunities for maximising active travel links to the development will also be explored.

Economic development

The project will be procured via the North Wales Construction Partnership. Due to the value of the project this will fall within Lot 2. This ensures the baseline social value and economic benefits (economic, employment & environmental) are met as standard. The 'softer' community benefits are to be agreed with key stakeholders following a successful appointment of a contractor.

Quality skills for the long term

The project will link with the expansion of flying start. This will see greater engagement with families. Flying start offers part time childcare for children 2 - 3 years old, enhanced health visiting service, access to parenting programmes and support for children to learn to talk and communicate.

Quality jobs for the long term

The expansion of the childcare provision will ensure that the current employment of child care staff remains sustainable. With an increase in the number of places there will likely be opportunity for an increase in staff.

Childcare

This proposal will directly support the provision of childcare. This project will expand the provision of Welsh medium childcare in the Prestatyn area by 20 places. The project will also deliver a new purpose built facility.

Negative impacts identified:

A low carbon society

No Known Impact

Quality communications, infrastructure and transport

No Known Impact

Economic development

No Known Impact

Quality skills for the long term

No Known Impact

Quality jobs for the long term

No Known Impact

Childcare

No Known Impact

A resilient Denbighshire

Overall Impact

Positive

Justification for impact

Overall the impact will be positive as the project will ensure that opportunities to contribute positively to biodiversity are within scope.

Further actions required

As the new building will develop a piece of land any impact on biodiversity will be offset. This may include introduction of habitat areas, planting of trees or hedgerows, bat and bird boxes etc.

Positive impacts identified:

Biodiversity and the natural environment

The scheme is proposed to be developed on an area of undeveloped land adjacent to the main school site. The childcare facility will deliver an outdoor area, engagement will take place with the provider but it is expected that opportunities will arise for learning via the natural environment with a positive contribution to the habitat.

Biodiversity in the built environment

The facility will have dedicated outdoor areas for play. It will be explored as part of the detailed design for dedicated biodiversity areas.

Reducing waste, reusing and recycling

The procurement will have a focus on reducing waste and recycling as part of the process.

Reduced energy/fuel consumption

The new facility will be designed around Net Carbon Zero principles.

People's awareness of the environment and biodiversity

Environmental benefits brought about by the project will be highlighted and publicised for key stakeholders.

Flood risk management

The facility is not being proposed to be built on a flood risk area.

Negative impacts identified:

Biodiversity and the natural environment

The scheme will include works on an undeveloped piece of land. There may be an impact on the immediate area such as removal of small volumes of plants. This would be negated with replacement areas such as tree planting etc.

Biodiversity in the built environment

No Known Impact

Reducing waste, reusing and recycling

No Known Impact

Reduced energy/fuel consumption

No Known Impact

People's awareness of the environment and biodiversity

No Known Impact

Flood risk management

No Known Impact

A healthier Denbighshire

Overall Impact

Positive

Justification for impact

Overall the project would have a positive impact as the delivery of a new purpose built facility would support most of the principles outlined above.

Further actions required

If any negative impacts emerge actions to mitigate will be fully explored.

Positive impacts identified:

A social and physical environment that encourage and support health and well-being

The new facility is linked with the expansion of the Flying Start programme across Denbighshire. The project will deliver a purpose built facility to support the work of the Flying Start team in Prestatyn including parental engagement.

Access to good quality, healthy food

The new facility will provide a purpose built building with the required ancillary areas such as food preparation and eating areas.

People's emotional and mental well-being

The new facility is linked with the expansion of the Flying Start programme across Denbighshire. The project will deliver a purpose built facility to support the work of the Flying Start team in Prestatyn including parental engagement.

Access to healthcare

No Known Impact
Participation in leisure opportunities
Age appropriate outdoor areas will be delivered to encourage active play.
Negative impacts identified:
A social and physical environment that encourage and support health and well-being
No Known Impact
Access to good quality, healthy food
No Known Impact
People's emotional and mental well-being
No Known Impact
Access to healthcare
No Known Impact
Participation in leisure opportunities
No Known Impact
A more equal Denbighshire
Overall Impact
Positive
Justification for impact
Overall the project will have a positive impact as it will expand access to Flying Start.

Further actions required

If any negative impacts emerge actions to mitigate will be fully explored.

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

No Known Impact

People who suffer discrimination or disadvantage

No Known Impact

People affected by socio-economic disadvantage and unequal outcomes

The childcare provision is part of the Flying Start Scheme. Flying start provides part-time childcare for 2 to 3 year olds, an enhanced health visiting service, access to parenting programmes and support for children to learn to talk and communicate.

Areas affected by socio-economic disadvantage

The childcare provision is part of the Flying Start Scheme. Flying start provides part-time childcare for 2 to 3 year olds, an enhanced health visiting service, access to parenting programmes and support for children to learn to talk and communicate.

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

No Known Impact

People who suffer discrimination or disadvantage

No Known Impact

People affected by socio-economic disadvantage and unequal outcomes
No Known Impact
Areas affected by socio-economic disadvantage
No Known Impact
A Denbighshire of cohesive communities
Overall Impact
Neutral
Justification for impact
The project will have a neutral impact overall as it will deliver measures for safeguarding and secure by design.
Further actions required
If any negative impacts emerge actions to mitigate these will be fully explored.
Positive impacts identified:
Safe communities and individuals
The project will be designed with the required safe guarding measures.
Community participation and resilience
No Known Impact
The attractiveness of the area
The new building will be in-keeping with the wider area which is currently a mix of educational

facilities and residential.

Connected communities
The childcare facility will promoted links with the local community.
Rural resilience
No Known Impact
Negative impacts identified:
Safe communities and individuals
No Known Impact
Community participation and resilience
No Known Impact
The attractiveness of the area
No Known Impact
Connected communities
No Known Impact
Rural resilience
No Known Impact
A Danbighabira of vibrant aulture and thriving Walch language
A Denbighshire of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language
Overall Impact
Positive
Justification for impact

The overall impact will be positive, the project is expanding access to Welsh medium childcare by 20 places. The childcare provision will be co-located on the existing Welsh medium primary school site providing continuity of welsh medium provision.

Further actions required

If any negative impacts emerge actions to mitigate will be fully explored.

Positive impacts identified:

People using Welsh

The childcare provison is delivered via the medium of Welsh. The project will increase the overall number of childcare places available from 70 to 90 therefore supporting the WESP, Cymraeg 2050 and the well-being goal of 'A Denbighshire of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language'.

Promoting the Welsh language

The delivery of the project is within an existing Welsh medium primary school site. During the procurement process use of bilingual signage for site management will be discussed with the contractor. The project itself will be publicised via DCC communications team to raise a general awareness of the project.

Culture and heritage

No Known Impact

Negative impacts identified:

People using Welsh

No Known Impact

Promoting the Welsh language

No Known Impact

Culture and heritage

No Known Impact

A globally responsible Denbighshire

Overall Impact

Positive

Justification for impact

The overall impact is positive, the project has identified routes to procurement that will ensure delivery of core economic, employment and environmental benefits.

Further actions required

If any negative impacts emerge actions to mitigate will be fully explored.

Positive impacts identified:

Local, national, international supply chains

The project will be procured via the North Wales Construction Partnership. This ensures that the baseline economic, employment and environmental benefits are met.

Human rights

The project will be procured via the North Wales Construction Partnership. This ensures that the baseline economic, employment and

Broader service provision in the local area or the region

No Known Impact

Reducing climate change

The project will ensure that Net Carbon Zero principles are applied to the design of the building to meet Denbighshire's commitment to being a net carbon zero council by 2030.

Negative impacts identified:
Local, national, international supply chains
No Known Impact
Human rights
No Known Impact
Broader service provision in the local area or the region
2.0000 co. v.oc provision in the local drop of the region
No Known Impact
Reducing climate change
No Known Impact