

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.

PLEASE COMPLETE SECTIONS 1-14 ONLY AND SEND TO CAPITALBIDS@DENBIGHSHIRE.GOV.UK.
PLEASE TURN OFF TRACK CHANGES AND REMOVE ANY COMMENTS BEFORE SENDING
 THE CAPITAL TEAM WILL REQUEST SUPPORTING STATEMENTS FOR SECTIONS 15-18 TO BE SENT TO THE BUSINESS CASE AUTHOR FOR INSERTION TO THE BUSINESS CASE.
 PLEASE SEND THE FINAL BUSINESS CASE (WITH APPENDIX A COMPLETED) TO CAPITALBIDS@DENBIGHSHIRE.GOV.UK

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 Bro Elwern Extension
Project Manager:	Emma Jones, Modernising Education
Work stream/Programme (if applicable):	Modernising Education (Welsh Capital Grant)
Verto project reference	PR006889

1. PROJECT TYPE

Head of Service i.e. Project Sponsor	Geraint Davies, Head of Education	Lead member:	Cllr Gill German,
Service:	Education	LM Portfolio:	Lead Member for Education, Children and Families
Form completed by:	Emma Jones (Modernising Education)	Date:	07/02/2024
Finance Capital Team contact:	Sian Jackson	Service Accountant (for revenue implications if applicable)	Chris Speed

Please categorise your project type. Mark **one** box only.

SMALL <£250k	<input type="checkbox"/>
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MEDIUM >£251 - £999k	<input type="checkbox"/>
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LARGE >£1m	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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DECISION SOUGHT FROM CAPITAL SCRUTINY GROUP:	To recommend that this business case proceeds for submission to the Welsh Governments Welsh Language Capital Grant 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 will deliver a one-classroom extension for Ysgol Bro Elwern to increase the capacity from 48 pupils to 60 pupils. The estimated cost for the project is **£1,066,546**. Of the £1,066,546 required to fund this project the Council will seek to draw down 100% of the cost via the Welsh Government’s Welsh Medium Capital Grant funding stream. All costs have been revised in January 2024 and take into account increases in construction and client-side costs.

Ysgol Bro Elwern is a Welsh Medium primary school located within the village of Gwyddelwern. The school draws pupils from the communities of Gwyddelwern, Corwen and Bryn SM. The current full time school capacity is **48**, there are currently **56** full time pupils on roll. Pupil projections indicate that the school will significantly exceed its capacity in the next few years, this is detailed below:

Pupil Projections 2023	Jan 2024	Jan 2025	Jan 2026	Jan 2027	Jan 2028
Ysgol Bro Elwern	54	59	61	61	65

There are minimal Welsh medium surplus places available in the wider Dee Valley area, in addition to Ysgol Bro Elwern there are three further Welsh Medium primary schools – Ysgol Betws GG, Ysgol Bro Dyfrdwy (Cynwyd) and Ysgol Gymraeg Y Gwernant (Llangollen). There are currently only 7 surplus full-time places (January 2023 PLASC) across the 4 schools combined.

The school building has a lack of ancillary facilities, circulation space and doesn’t have a hall or separate dining facilities. The teaching accommodation is split between three rooms, two in the main building and one in the adjacent schoolhouse. Only one room can accommodate 30 pupils and therefore what appears to be a two-classroom school requires 3 teachers. As a result, additional funding is provided to the school to ensure it can remain sustainable.

The current condition of the school is C which is defined as ‘Poor; teaching methods are inhibited, and condition can have an adverse impact on school organisation’. The building isn’t energy efficient and currently has the highest consumption per sqm of our primary schools. It currently has an oil fuelled heating system and convector heaters. As part of the investment in the building it is intended to initiate changes which would also deliver a more energy efficient building which will also reduce the energy bills of the school.

The project would support the delivery of **Outcome 1** and **Outcome 2** of Denbighshire’s Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) by increasing the number of primary Welsh medium places available within the County but specifically building in capacity in an area with minimal Welsh primary surplus capacity.

The school also supports the principles of colocation. Alongside this proposal there is a LUF funded project for a new Community Hub to be built on the school fields which will be utilised by the school, Cylch Meithrin and community groups. Both projects 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. At present the Cylch Meithrin are using the village hall.

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:					
Continue with existing provision at Ysgol Bro Elwern					
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	X		Is quicker to deliver	X
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 reason this option has not been selected?					
This option does not meet the key business objectives of the project. This option would lead to pupils being refused places at Ysgol Bro Elwern and additional funding being allocated to the school to manage class sizes. The maintenance backlog wouldn't be addressed, and the school would still face high energy bills. This option would not lead to any improvement in the overall school / learning environment, opportunities for carbon reduction and biodiversity could not be addressed.					

Option 2:		Environmentally enhanced option			
Please provide brief details:					
Alongside the proposed extension of a classroom to the school, conducting a wholesale site decarbonisation. This would include, complete new system of radiators and pipework, significantly improved fabric – increased levels of wall, roof and possibly floor insulation and possibly improved u-values on the windows and a concerted draught proofing exercise					
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	X
	Costs the same			Takes the same to deliver	
	Costs less			Is quicker to deliver	

Quality	Improves the quality	X	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 not been selected?

The current funding agreed in principle from Welsh Government would not be able to deliver both the classroom extension and the wholesale site decarbonisation. This maybe a possibility if we are able to secure grants through the Carbon Reduction Team but isn't a certainty. The classroom extension is needed as a priority due to the increase in pupil numbers.

Option 3: Preferred Option

Please provide brief details:

This option would result in a one classroom extension, introduce a more energy efficient form of heating to the school and remodel of existing areas as workable practical and ancillary areas. This would result in an increase of overall full-time capacity from 48 to 60.

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

What is the main reason this option has been selected?

This option is the preferred option as it meets all of the key business objectives and drivers for the project. It is compliant with the WESP and supports the Welsh Governments aspirations for 'Cymraeg 2050'. With the building of the LUF funded community centre on site, it is also a strategic fit for colocation / cohesive communities' principles and meets a number of the goals outlined in the Future Well-being of Generations Act. This option will deliver a learning environment that is flexible and fit for the future which meets parental local demand. This option will deliver energy efficient accommodation as Net Carbon Zero principles will be applied to the design and construction of the facility. This option is affordable within the requested funding envelope.

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:

- Increase Welsh medium primary provision in the Dee Valley West area and therefore for the County.
- The expansion of places would assist the local authority in meeting the goals of the Welsh in Education Strategic Plan, specifically Outcomes 1 & 2
- The project would support the 'Cymraeg 2050' aspirations of the Welsh Government to increase the number of Welsh speakers.
- The project would deliver an overall improved learning environment with flexibility for the future.
- The project would assist in delivering a key benefit of colocation with the Cylch, and Community Groups all able to utilise the school site.
- Pupils will benefit from the colocation through ease of transition from the childcare setting to the foundation phase.

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

The project would result in works being undertaken at the school whilst it is a live school site. Robust site management protocols will be in place during the construction elements. The Local Authority will work with the contractor on enabling works for the childcare setting.

6. CARBON IMPACT

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.

Please consult with Council's Principal Energy Manager (robert.jones@denbighshire.gov.uk) and the Council's Climate & Ecological Change Programme team (climatechange@denbighshire.gov.uk) to complete this section.

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.

However, it is accepted that Ysgol Bro Elwern currently has the highest consumption per sqm of our primary schools. It currently uses an oil heating system and convector heaters (on what is called a CT circuit). To comply with the corporate 'major refurbishment' or new build requirements the requirement would be 'net zero carbon in operation' – this will be challenging. Every effort will be made to deliver at least a proportionate improvement to the school site through the project. This could potentially be achieved through Solar PV could being sized to provide load for the whole site. Hot water duties could be run from an air source water heater that also has a solar PV immersion diversion switch – to avoid having to use oil outside of space heating season. LED lighting could also be installed to existing. There is a possibility if the PV was large enough (as with above, maybe 40kW+) that a battery could make a valuable contribution.

7. TIMESCALE

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

Date	Milestone
Spring 2024	Start
Summer 2024	Planning
Autumn 2024	Procurement
Winter 2025	End of construction

8. 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 £
Welsh Government Welsh Language Capital Programme	Approached				
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. 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	

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				28,000
Land/property acquisition				
Land preparation/remediation				
Demolition and/or site security				
Construction, refurbishment or maintenance				433,046
BREEAM rating of "Excellent"				
Security measures (CCTV, door entry, etc.)				
Fire prevention measures (sprinklers, etc.)				
External landscaping and other works				204,282
Highways work				
ICT infrastructure and hardware				
Fixtures & fittings				
Furniture				14,652
Planning/Building Regulation Costs				
Design Team Fees (architects, QS, etc.)				117,268
Legal Costs and Fees				
Marketing/Consultation				
External Project Support (e.g. gateway review)				
Contingency				95,599
Client contingency				173,699
OTHER (please enter)				
OTHER (please enter)				
TOTAL				1,066,546

Please provide details of proposed capital funding sources					
Enter details of funding source	Status:	2023/24 £	2024/25 £	Future Years £	TOTAL £
Welsh Government Welsh Language Capital Programme	Approached		1,066,546		1,066,546
TOTAL			1,066,546		1,066,546

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

10. 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. **Please consult with your revenue finance officer for this section and ensure they sign at the end of the section to confirm they have reviewed the figures provided.***

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)	288,825	289,519	694
energy costs (heating, lighting, ICT, etc.)	11,837	11,837	0
property maintenance and servicing costs	15,276	15,276	0
other property related costs (rental, insurance, etc.)	0	0	0
ongoing ICT costs (licences, etc.)	0	0	0
mileage of Denbighshire fleet vehicles	0	0	0
mileage for business travel by Denbighshire employees using their personal vehicles	0	0	0
OTHER (please enter)			
OTHER (please enter)			
OVERALL REVENUE REQUIREMENT	315,938	316,632	694

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

Revenue changes for this project will be met through the School funding formula. For example the project will increase the floor area of the school but this will deliver an increase in funding as a consequence on that element.

From a staffing perspective there is a potential revenue saving however this will be reviewed by the school and its governors. Currently the school have 3 classrooms but only one can accommodate 30 pupils which means the school are running three classes. The delivery of this project will enable the school to have two classrooms which can accommodate 30 pupils and an overall capacity of 60 full time pupils.

Approx. 1 extra hour per week for cleaning the new classroom.

If we carry out some energy efficiency improvements to the existing school the overall impact on budgets will be zero at worse but probably better. Energy costs for last year were £11,837. The costs after the works have been completed will be similar although oil and electricity prices are falling this year so cost should be less.

Approx £2.5 will be required as one-off capitation when the new classroom opens.

Approx. £5k one-off cost for furniture and IT peripherals

Signature of service accountant to confirm the above figures:

Signed:	Date:
C Speed – School finance manager – Ruthin primaries	28/02/2024

11. 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 Welsh Language Capital Grant for Denbighshire. All project progress 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 Geraint Davies, Head of Education. 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.

12. 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 project would result in works being undertaken at the school whilst it is a live school site. Robust site management protocols will be in place during the construction elements. The Local Authority will work with the contractor on enabling works for the childcare setting.

13. 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
Cost escalation / over budget		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Robust monitoring of costs throughout the project lifecycle, most crucially ensuring the design brief is reflective of the proposed scheme to ensure cost is within procurement period is within the funding envelope. 	
Project slippage / delivered late		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The programme of works will be closely monitored by the client. Any issues arising that may cause slippage will be escalated as appropriate. 	
Failure to gain planning permission		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Early engagement with the planning department will be undertaken to understand any issues that may arise at the site. Engagement with local residents and other impacted groups will also take place to minimise the likelihood of potential objections. 	
Disruption to live school site		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Live site management arrangements will be made to minimise the disruption during the construction period. Engagement will take place with the school prior to works commencing on site to agree site management arrangements. 	

Likelihood	A - Almost Certain					
	B - Highly Likely					
	C - Probable					
	D - Possible					
	E - Rare					
		5 - Very Low	4 - Low	3 - Medium	2 - High	1 - Very High
		Impact				

14. 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

Offer letter.

Wellbeing Impact Assessment

**WHEN SECTIONS 1-14 HAVE BEEN COMPLETED PLEASE SEND TO
CAPITALBIDS@DENBIGHSHIRE.GOV.UK.**

THE CAPITAL TEAM WILL REQUEST STATEMENTS FOR SECTIONS 15-18 TO BE SENT TO THE BUSINESS CASE AUTHOR

PLEASE INSERT THE STATEMENTS AND SEND THE FINAL BUSINESS CASE (WITH APPENDIX A COMPLETED) TO CAPITALBIDS@DENBIGHSHIRE.GOV.UK

15. CARBON MANAGEMENT IMPACT

For completion by the Climate & Ecological Change Programme team and / or the Council's Principal Energy Manager. 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= £)			15,276	2,169	2,169	
Energy consumption in buildings: (UNIT = kWh)	106,329	27,041	106,329	27,041	0	Assuming the whole site energy use does not increase
Energy consumption in Street Lighting: (UNIT = kWh)						
Fuel consumption of Denbighshire Fleet vehicles: (UNIT = litres/ kWh)						
Mileage of Business Travel (personal vehicles): (UNIT = miles travelled)						
Mileage of Staff Commute: (UNIT = miles travelled)						
Tonnes of waste produced: (UNIT = tonnes)						
One off Forecasts:			Project cost (£)	Carbon (kgCO2e)		Comments
Money spent on external goods and services (UNIT= £)	Design		£117,268	18,411		SIC 71 / EF 0.157
	Project Mgmt		£28,000	4,172		SIC 74 / EF 0.149
	Building works		£433,046	103,931		SIC 41.2 / EF 0.24
	Landscape works		£204,282	48,619		SIC 42.99 / EF 0.238
	Furniture		£14,652	8,249		SIC 31 / EF 0.563
TOTAL CARBON EMISSIONS			£797,248	183,382		NB Not including the contingency sum

Annual Forecasts:	Current	Carbon Absorption (kgCO2e)	Post Project	Carbon Absorption (kgCO2e)	Carbon Absorption Variance	Comments
Hectare of Grassland (UNIT=ha)					0	Assuming no loss of vegetation as part of the development. There is a possible opportunity to increase absorption by tree planting.
Hectares of Forestland (UNIT=ha)					0	
TOTAL CARBON ABSORPTION					0	

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 Council Summary	HELPS	HINDERS	NEUTRAL
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Climate Change Lead Officer statement:

The estimated greenhouse gas emissions associated with the capital spending are 183 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (183tCO₂e) plus an additional 2t/year associated with maintenance. While these emissions would *hinder* the Council's net zero goal, the strategic geographical need for developing here at Ysgol Bro Elwern to suit the projected pupil numbers is recognised and so it is assumed that this project would displace the need to develop other sites in the Dee Valley with potentially greater carbon footprints. It is also acknowledged and welcomed that the design aims for the building extensions to be **net carbon zero in operation** and that there are a number of potential improvements to the existing building that could be implemented to deliver incremental emission reductions.

Although the "Sustainable Communities for Learning - Welsh-Medium Capital Grant" secured from the Welsh Government would not cover the wholesale decarbonisation of the school (including the existing building) that is set out in rejected Option 2, the Climate Change team would nevertheless encourage dialogue to continue with the DCC Buildings Energy team to explore the possibility of applying for the "Low Carbon Heat Grant" for the additional elements. While it is no certainty, as stated by the PM, the Welsh Government has recently extended the dates for this grant because of low take-up so the probability of a successful grant may have improved substantially.

The Council has a 'plus' target to reduce Supply Chain emissions as well as its own direct emissions (by 35% of the 2019 baseline by 2030) and building work represents a carbon-intensive sector. Early engagement with Procurement Business Partners at design stage (including Roberta Bailey for supply chain decarbonisation) is encouraged to maximise low carbon / carbon sequestration opportunities from the supply chain associated with this project.

We would advocate for the community benefits sought through the contract to be environmental actions to address climate and ecological change (thinking globally, acting locally), which could also be linked to education. For example, it would be helpful for the contractor to fund the Biodiversity Management Plan for the school (or at least the tree planting element to take tree canopy cover to >20%) to link with the pupil's sustainability studies and outdoor activities. Ellie Wainwright can advise on the current BMP status/future plans. (The community hub in the linked LUF project may also be a suitable future venue to host some sort of local sustainability event for the village sponsored by the contractor. Karen Bellis and/or Aileen Charteris and/or the community development team may be able to suggest event ideas.)

Supplied by: Keith Bennett **Date:** 8 March 2024

16. BIODIVERSITY IMPACT

For completion by Denbighshire's Biodiversity Lead Officer – Joel Walley
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 (plant or animal), or involve physical works to property or Land?	Yes		No	
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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	
Has an ecological appraisal or survey of the site or proposals taken place?				
Cofnod eMapper Link:				
Please provide brief summary of survey findings, or provide a copy of the ecological report for review:				

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

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

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

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
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Ecology Officer summary:

Name:	Date:
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17. COUNTY LANDLORD STATEMENT

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

Supplied by:	Date:
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18. CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER STATEMENT

Please provide a statement from the Chief Finance Officer.

The project which is 100% grant funding from Welsh Language Capital Grant Programme will assist the council to manage demand for school places through the medium of Welsh in the Corwen area and meet the goals of the Welsh in Education Strategic Plan which are positives. There are revenue cost implications of extending the school which need to be considered as part of any decision made at CSG.

Supplied by: Liz Thomas **Date:** 18 March 2024

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	29/02/2024
TO BE COMPLETED BY CAPITAL TEAM:		
VAT accountant rhys.i.jones@denbighshire.gov.uk to check for vat implications	N.B. The Chief Finance Officer must be copied in to the email to these officers to demonstrate they have been advised/consulted	
Finance Capital Team contact as detailed on page 1		01/03/2024
Service accountant if revenue implications applicable		28/02/2024
Chief Finance Officer statement obtained		18/03/2024
County Landlord statement obtained		
Carbon management impact statement obtained		08/03/2024
Biodiversity impact statement obtained		
Final completed Business Case sent to capitalbids@denbighshire.gov.uk		11/03/2024

Ysgol Bro Elwern:

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: 1334

Brief description: This project will deliver a single classroom extension to increase capacity from 48 to 60 full time pupils.

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Responsible Service: Education and Children's Services

Localities affected by the proposal: Dee Valley,

Who will be affected by the proposal? Pupils and staff of Ysgol Bro Elwern and parents and carers of current/prospective pupils.

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 : 29 / 36.

Summary for each Sustainable Development principle

Long term

There are minimal Welsh medium surplus places available in the wider Dee Valley area, in addition to Ysgol Bro Elwern there are three further Welsh Medium primary schools. The new build elements of the project will be designed to ensure long term sustainability, including the use of technologies to meet the Council's aspiration of Net Carbon Zero by 2030.

Prevention

A key benefit will be the increased capacity of the school for full time pupils. Alongside this project there is a LUF funded project that will see a new Community Hub being built on the school fields alongside the school. Securing primary education provision for all local pupils in the area will strengthen community ties.

Integration

The project would support the delivery of Outcome 1 and Outcome 2 of Denbighshire's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) by increasing the number of primary Welsh medium places available within the County but specifically building in capacity in an area with minimal Welsh primary surplus capacity.

Collaboration

The proposal has been developed by the Education team in consultation with the school. Should the project be progressed and funding agreed further more intensive consultation will take place with key stakeholders regarding the design of the extension and ancillary areas.

Involvement

Robust engagement will take place once funding has been allocated for the project, this will be within the wider Education team and the school (including the 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 when needed.

Summary of impact

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

Main conclusions

Although some potential negative impacts have been identified over the short term (in terms of disruption associated with the planned construction works), longer term the benefits of increasing the

Ysgol Bro Elwern

capacity of the school and the increased flexibility in opportunities for the school to make use of the school site (eg freeing up ancillary/intervention space), mean the proposal is positive overall. The increased suitability of school facilities will support the ongoing health and wellbeing of pupils and school staff. The procurement of contractors and the subsequent construction periods should have a positive economic impact. The aims of achieving Net Carbon Zero for the project support Denbighshire's position around reducing climate change, however we acknowledge there may be challenges associated with improving the energy efficiency of an existing building. Consultation with Denbighshire's energy team will be ongoing to establish the best solutions for reducing energy usage on the site.

The likely impact on Denbighshire, Wales and the world.

A prosperous Denbighshire

Overall Impact

Positive

Justification for impact

The project will support the school by providing the extra classroom that is needed for the current increase in capacity. The extension will be designed with consideration of NCZ principles and support continued economic development.

Further actions required

Ongoing consultation will be undertaken with the DCC energy team during the design process to maximise opportunities for use of the funding for energy saving technologies within the build.

Positive impacts identified:

A low carbon society

Plans for the extension will be developed in line with Net Carbon Zero principles which will be applied to the design and construction of the facility in order to strive for accommodation with energy rating A.

Quality communications, infrastructure and transport

The building will be provided with infrastructure to support digital resources such as data points and whole building wifi coverage.

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

Community benefits will be identified in connection with the constructions works.

Quality jobs for the long term

The increased provision of pupil numbers within the school will ensure that local parents are able to place their child in the closest school to their home, meaning a shorter commute for them to jobs.

Childcare

Alongside this project is the LUF Gwyddelwern Community Hub project. This will see the Cylch using the new Community Hub which will be sited on the school fields.

Negative impacts identified:

A low carbon society

Refurbishment and extension of existing buildings can pose significantly challenges in terms of the ability to achieve NCZ . As such it is a possibility that energy usage for the site could increase overall.

Quality communications, infrastructure and transport

No negative impacts identified.

Economic development

No negative impacts identified.

Quality skills for the long term

No negative impacts identified.

Quality jobs for the long term

No negative impacts identified.

Childcare

No negative impacts identified.

A resilient Denbighshire

Overall Impact

Neutral

Justification for impact

The new facility will be designed around Net Carbon Zero principles however the challenges of achieving NCZ when extending an existing site is acknowledged.

Further actions required

Consultation will be ongoing with the energy team to establish the best solutions for reducing energy usage on the site. Opportunities for improving biodiversity on the site as part of the construction works will be explored.

Positive impacts identified:

Biodiversity and the natural environment

Within the external layout of the school opportunities to preserve or enhance natural habitats will be maximised to allow such areas to be used to deliver the curriculum.

Biodiversity in the built environment

No positive impact identified

Reducing waste, reusing and recycling

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

Reduced energy/fuel consumption

The new classroom 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. Scope for contractors supporting biodiversity projects will be actively pursued.

Flood risk management

The facility is not being proposed to be built on a flood risk area. However detailed surveys are to be carried out.

Negative impacts identified:

Biodiversity and the natural environment

No negative impacts identified.

Biodiversity in the built environment

No negative impacts identified.

Reducing waste, reusing and recycling

No negative impacts identified.

Reduced energy/fuel consumption

Refurbishment of buildings may present greater challenges to ensure that optimum energy management processes can be achieved.

People's awareness of the environment and biodiversity

No negative impacts identified.

Flood risk management

No negative impacts identified.

A healthier Denbighshire

Overall Impact

Positive

Justification for impact

The increased suitability of school facilities will also support the ongoing health and wellbeing of pupils and school staff.

Further actions required

Engagement will be undertaken with key stakeholders to develop agreed site constraints plans to minimise disruption during the construction phase.

Positive impacts identified:

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

A larger classroom for pupils will ensure teachers are more easily able to deliver the curriculum and will free up space for intervention.

Access to good quality, healthy food

No positive impacts have been identified

People's emotional and mental well-being

The increased suitability of school facilities will also support the ongoing health and wellbeing of pupils and school staff.

Access to healthcare

No positive impacts have been identified

Participation in leisure opportunities

No positive impacts have been identified

Negative impacts identified:

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

Any change in provision can lead to resistance from staff, pupils, parents etc. Disruption may occur to local residents during the construction phase and we will work with contractors to minimise the impact of issues.

Access to good quality, healthy food

No negative impacts have been identified.

People's emotional and mental well-being

Careful consideration will be needed to ensure that during any phasing of the project that access to the learning environment is not reduced. Construction would be undertaken on a live school site and as such any interim arrangements may have a short term impact on the wellbeing of pupils and staff and consideration will be given to how this may be mitigated.

Access to healthcare

No negative impacts have been identified.

Participation in leisure opportunities

No negative impacts have been identified.

A more equal Denbighshire

Overall Impact

Positive

Justification for impact

This proposal if progressed will be designed according to 'inclusive by design' principles.

Further actions required

Consultation will be undertaken with the school to develop agreed site constraint and interim mitigation plans in order to minimise the impacts on pupils and staff during the school build. Should 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

This proposal if progressed will be designed according to 'inclusive by design' principles.

People who suffer discrimination or disadvantage

The proposal will equally positively impact on all groups.

People affected by socio-economic disadvantage and unequal outcomes

increased pupil numbers would mean that parents who live locally with primary aged pupils and are materially disadvantaged wont be disadvantaged by their location. They can access the local school for their child. By improving the educational offer through new school facilities the performance of pupils could improve increasing scope for gaining employment.

Areas affected by socio-economic disadvantage

Whilst Gwyddelwern isn't an area of socio-economic disadvantage, the classroom extension will provide much needed space in the school to enhance the education of the pupils from the community.

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

Careful consideration will be needed to ensure that during any phasing of the project that access to

the learning environment is not reduced. The interim arrangements may impact the wellbeing of pupils and consideration will be given to how this may be mitigated.

People who suffer discrimination or disadvantage

No negative impacts have been identified.

People affected by socio-economic disadvantage and unequal outcomes

No negative impacts have been identified.

Areas affected by socio-economic disadvantage

No negative impacts have been identified.

A Denbighshire of cohesive communities

Overall Impact

Positive

Justification for impact

Although some potential negative impacts have been identified over the short term in terms of disruption associated with the planned construction works, longer term the benefits of the increased flexibility in opportunities for the school to make use of the school site mean the proposal is positive overall.

Further actions required

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

Positive impacts identified:

Safe communities and individuals

The project will be designed in conjunction with the Designing out Crime guidelines.

Community participation and resilience

The facility, although primarily a primary education building, will be sited next to the new Community hub. The project seeks to build on the foundations of the current cohesive nature of the site to strengthen for the future.

The attractiveness of the area

The works at the site will be in keeping with the current building and also will reflect the rural nature of the surrounding area and village.

Connected communities

By adding a classroom, this will free up areas within the school that can be used by external organisations to deliver support that is needed for the pupils.

Rural resilience

The school is located in a small village setting within a rural area. The expansion and improvement at the school will ensure that the facility is viable in the longer term, protecting this rural asset.

Negative impacts identified:

Safe communities and individuals

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

Community participation and resilience

No negative impacts have been identified

The attractiveness of the area

The construction phase may have a short term detrimental impact on the local community.

Connected communities

Increase community use may create additional management/administration pressures for the school.

Rural resilience

No negative impacts have been identified

A Denbighshire of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language

Overall Impact

Positive

Justification for impact

This project will increase the capacity of a Welsh medium school and secure the future of a Welsh language preschool provision. As such there will be increased opportunities for young people in Denbighshire to access their education through the medium of Welsh. Additionally an increase in the number of Welsh learners could increase the overall number of speakers within Denbighshire and Wales.

Further actions required

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

Positive impacts identified:

People using Welsh

The project will expand the availability of Welsh medium primary provision in the West Dee Valley area.

Therefore this will increase the numbers of people speaking and using Welsh in line with the Welsh Government's 'Cymraeg 2050' plan.

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. Communication with residents and the local community will be bilingual.

Culture and heritage

The project will expand the availability of Welsh medium places, therefore providing opportunity for more pupils to learn and participate in cultural events via the medium of Welsh.

Negative impacts identified:

People using Welsh

No negative impacts identified

Promoting the Welsh language

No negative impacts identified

Culture and heritage

No negative impacts identified

A globally responsible Denbighshire

Overall Impact

Neutral

Justification for impact

The procurement of contractors and the subsequent construction periods should have a positive impact. Adherence to procurement regulations and statutory responsibilities around Health and Safety will ensure that the projects address such areas. The aims of achieving Net Carbon Zero for the project support Denbighshire's position around reducing climate change however we are aware there may be challenges associated with improving the energy efficiency of an existing building.

Further actions required

Opportunities for improving the energy efficiency of the site in order to compensate for the increased floor area will be considered at an early stage of the design.

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

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

Broader service provision in the local area or the region

As the project would free up additional resource space, it increases opportunities for external organisations to attend the school and support pupils

Reducing climate change

Opportunities for improving the energy efficiency of the site in order to compensate for the increased floor area will be considered at an early stage of the design.

Negative impacts identified:

Local, national, international supply chains

No negative impacts identified.

Human rights

No negative impacts identified.

Broader service provision in the local area or the region

No negative impacts identified.

Reducing climate change

Due to the nature of extending and refurbishing older buildings there may be challenges in terms of achieving a carbon neutral build overall.