

Well-being Impact assessment report of increasing the capacity of Ysgol Chwilog

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1. INTRODUCTION

As a Council we are committed to the principles within the Well-being of Future Generations Act (2015) in order to improve the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Gwynedd's communities. The Council's vision is:

Our vision as a Council is to support all the people of Gwynedd to thrive and live full lives in their community, in a county which is one of the best counties to live in.

The Council has adopted well-being objectives that complement the national well-being goals and ensure that Gwynedd residents:

- Enjoy a happy, healthy and safe life
- Have access to quality homes within their communities
- Earn enough wages to support themselves and their families
- Receive a first-class education that will allow them to do what they want to do
- To live with dignity and independence for as long as possible
- Being able to live in a naturally Welsh speaking Society
- Enjoy the beauty of the County's natural environment.

The table below outlines the link between our well-being objectives and the national well-being goals.

We will ensure that the residents of Gwynedd can:	Prosperous	Resilient	Healthier	Equal	Cohesive Communities	A vibrant culture where the Welsh language is thriving	Globally responsible
Enjoy happy, healthy and safe lives							
Live in quality homes within their communities							
Earn a sufficient salary to be able to support themselves and their families							
Receive education of the highest quality which will enable them to do what they want to do							
Live with dignity and independently for as long as possible							
Live in a natural Welsh society							
Take advantage of the beauty of the County's natural environment.							

The Education Department has a role to promote the Act's well-being goals to the county's pupils through its activities and projects. The Act places a duty on public bodies in Wales to improve economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being. As part of the duty the Council has published well-being objectives that outline how it will improve well-being in the "Gwynedd Council Plan 2018-2023".

1.1 Context

During the Summer Term 2021 the governing body and the local members of Ysgol Chwilog contacted the Education Department concerned about the lack of capacity in the school to meet the increase in learner numbers due to housing developments within the natural catchment area.

An opportunity was seen to apply for a Welsh Capital Grant to try to respond to the situation of these school, by packaging the application around communities of linguistic significance (communities over 70% Welsh speakers).

Through this application, the Education Department is keen to support economic developments, housing and social enterprises in some communities of linguistic significance in the county, by increasing the capacity of the school in response to the growth in the population due to these developments. By weaving all these elements of community regeneration together, it can create a solid infrastructure for these communities, creating the very best conditions for the Welsh language and the prosperity of the communities.

In February 2022 confirmation was received from the Welsh Government that the request of the Education Department, Gwynedd Council had received approval in principle.

The School Organisation Code states that a statutory process must be carried out if *'expanding a school site (with the exception of nursery schools and special schools), which would increase the school's capacity by at least 25% or 200 pupils, compared to capacity the school on the appropriate date. When deciding on an increase in capacity, all cases of school expansion that have taken place since the appropriate date must be considered together with the proposed expansion work.'*

As the addition of a class to Ysgol Chwilog will increase the capacity to 95, which is an increase of over 25% of the 65, which is the school's capacity on the appropriate date in this case, it will be necessary to follow a statutory procedure before being able to do any modifications that will lead to increasing the school's capacity.

2. HOW DOES THE PROPOSAL MEET GWYNEDD COUNCIL'S WELL-BEING OBJECTIVES?

Increase the capacity of the school	
Objectives	Details:
Enjoy a happy, healthy and safe life	There will be more space in the school. The pupils will be taught in classes that offer a suitable space.
Live in quality homes within their communities	No effect
Earn a sufficient wage to support themselves and their families	No effect
Receive education of the highest quality that will allow them to do what they want to do	There will be sufficient space in the school for all the current children of the catchment area and for the future when there is more demand as a result of housing developments. The pupils will be taught in classes that offer a suitable space.
To live with dignity and independently for as long as possible	No effect
Live in a naturally Welsh society	It is anticipated that creating enough space for all primary school children in the catchment area in their local school will create the conditions that will support the prosperity of the Welsh language among the children and the communities.
Take advantage beauty of the County's natural environment	No effect

3. DOES THE PROPOSAL MEET THE GOALS OF THE WELL-BEING ACT?

Aim	Does the proposal contribute to this aim?	Measures to mitigate negative impacts on this aim:
<p>A prosperous Wales An innovative society using resources efficiently and proportionately, educated people, creating wealth and work.</p>	<p>The proposal would mean that there is enough space in the school for teaching all the children in their catchment area in classes suitable for the numbers. It is therefore anticipated that it would enrich the pupils' learning and social experiences.</p>	<p>No effect.</p>
<p>A resilient Wales A nation that maintains and enhances biodiversity and healthy ecosystems that support resilience and the ability to adapt to change (for example climate change).</p>	<p>It is not anticipated that the proposal is likely to have an impact on this aim.</p>	<p>No effect.</p>
<p>A healthier Wales A society where people's physical and mental well-being is as good as possible and people understand what affects their health.</p>	<p>It is not anticipated that the proposal is likely to have an impact on this aim.</p>	<p>No effect.</p>
<p>A more equal Wales A society that enables people to fulfil their potential irrespective of background or circumstances (including their socio-economic background and circumstances).</p>	<p>The proposal has been developed within the context of the Excellent Primary Education For Children in Gwynedd. The strategy outlines the vision: <i>“Provide education of the best possible quality that will provide the county’s children with the experiences, skills and confidence to develop into bilingual, successful and well-rounded citizens.”</i></p>	<p>No effect.</p>
<p>A Wales of cohesive communities Attractive, viable and safe communities with good connections</p>	<p>Adapting the school in order to ensure enough space for all primary school children in their catchment areas would mean that the pupils would be able to get an education in their communities.</p>	<p>No effect.</p>
<p>A vibrant Wales and culture where the Welsh language thrives A society that promotes and protects culture, heritage and the Welsh language and encourages people to participate in the arts, sports and leisure activities.</p>	<p>It is anticipated that creating enough space for all primary school children in the catchment area in their local school will create the very best conditions to support the prosperity of the Welsh language among the children and the communities.</p>	<p>No effect.</p>
<p>Wales is globally responsible. A nation that, in doing anything to improve the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales, is considering whether doing such a thing could contribute positively to global well-being.</p>	<p>It is not anticipated that the proposal is likely to have an impact on this aim.</p>	<p>No effect.</p>

4. SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT PRINCIPLES

Sustainable Development Principles	Does the proposal consider the principle?
<p>Long term The importance of balancing short-term needs with the need to safeguard the ability to meet long-term needs is also important.</p>	<p>Current numbers and projections of pupil numbers as well as local housing developments show the need to increase capacity in the school and the proposal will ensure enough places for the short and long term.</p>
<p>Suspension How action to prevent problems from occurring or escalating can help public bodies achieve their objectives.</p>	<p>Implementing the recommendation will help the Council to avoid problems of lack of space in the school.</p>
<p>Integration Consider how the public body's well-being objectives may affect each of the well-being goals, all of its other objectives, or the objectives of other public bodies.</p>	<p>The authority began the process of reviewing the school situation in the wake of a critical situation facing the school.</p>
<p>Collaboration Collaboration with any other person (or different departments within the organisation itself) could help the organisation meet its well-being goals.</p>	<p>Collaboration with other relevant departments and the individual schools will be an important part of achieving the objectives for the benefit of the schools and children in the catchment area.</p>
<p>Contents The importance of involving people with an interest in achieving the well-being goals, and ensuring that those people reflect the diversity of the area they serve.</p>	<p>Should the Cabinet decide to proceed with the proposal, the authority will carry out statutory consultation with relevant stakeholders such as parents, staff, unions, and the wider community in Chwilog. This consultation will also include specific consultation with children and young people. The authority will comply with the consultation requirements set out in the Welsh Government's School Organisation Code.</p>

5. CONCLUSION

Following consideration and assessment in accordance with the requirements of the well-being act, the 7 goals of the well-being act and the Council's well-being objectives were considered and it is concluded that the proposal meets the requirements.

The proposed proposal will ensure that children in the catchment area are educated in suitably sized schools and in a natural Welsh-speaking society, increasing opportunities to socialise and work together with others and give them a fair chance to flourish amongst their peers.

Adapting the schools in order to ensure enough space for all primary school children in their catchment areas would mean that the pupils would be able to get an education in their communities.

It is anticipated that creating enough space for all primary school children in the catchment area in their local school will create the very best conditions to support the prosperity of the Welsh language among the children and the communities.