

**INVESTIGATION INTO “THE IMPACT OF NEW BUILDING DEVELOPMENTS  
FOR SCHOOLS ON THE QUALITY OF EDUCATION”**

DRAFT BRIEF – 20 September 2018

(Version 1)

A	<p><b>What is the matter being considered as a scrutiny item?</b></p> <p>Several members have asked whether we are able to ascertain a positive effect on the education of pupils as a result of recent developments in the structuring of schools in the County - be they new building developments for schools, and/or the development of new schools.</p> <p>Their questions focus on the effect the new provision has on the quality of the education and pupil experience, and ask</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- whether the financial investment has led to an improvement in the quality</li><li>- whether good practice or lessons can be learnt as the development programme continues.</li></ul> <p>With all the development work that has taken place to date, the time is right to look at the impact (if at all) the new buildings have had in Gwynedd.</p> <p>The opportunity should be taken to identify any good practices and any lessons/changes for the developments in future.</p> <p>Research into the field will look at the effect of new school developments / buildings on the following elements, which are</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Quality of the Education</li><li>➤ Educational results</li><li>➤ Experience of the users in the new buildings</li><li>➤ Value for money</li></ul>
B	<p><b>Aim of the Investigation</b></p> <p>The main question to address is</p> <p><b>'What effect has new building development had on schools and the quality of pupil education, and are there lessons to be learnt in future?'</b></p> <p>This will be achieved by asking the following questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- What are the features of a good education?</li><li>- Are the educational results of the schools in question better/worse/stable after opening the new buildings?</li><li>- How has the pupils' experience changed from the old building to the new building</li><li>- How does the building affect education?</li><li>- What were the success criteria of the developments? Were these achieved?</li><li>- What was the general condition of the buildings?</li><li>- What changed from the old school to the new school?</li></ul>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- How did the teaching staff, the governors and GwE find the building improved the quality of education?</li> <li>- Do the developments offer value for money?</li> <li>- Are there lessons to be learnt for the future?</li> </ul>
C	<p><b>Background</b></p> <p>There has been considerable investment in developing educational buildings in Gwynedd recently. Among the developments are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ysgol yr Hendre, Caernarfon</li> <li>• Ysgol Craig y Deryn</li> <li>• Investing in improvements and renovations at Ysgol O M Edwards, Llanuwchllyn in 2013.</li> <li>• Ysgol Bro Llifon</li> <li>• Ysgol Hafod Lon, Penrhyndeudraeth</li> <li>• Ysgol Bro Idris, Dolgellau on six sites.</li> </ul> <p>The programme continues with developments that are already in the pipeline in the areas of Y Bala and Bangor.</p>
CH	<p><b>Good Practice and Lessons to be Learnt</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Using case study methodology it is intended that the necessary evidence and information is selected (noted below in section D) and analysed according to the strategic context and the context of the individual developments.</li> </ul>
D	<p><b>Gathering Evidence</b></p> <p>The questions will be answered using case study methodology for three or four developments. By combining recent and less recent developments, the intention is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To gather data to measure the effect the building has on the experience of pupils of recent developments, since the change is still fresh in the mind</li> <li>• To measure the impact of less recent developments on quality, since time has elapsed and quantitative data can be generated.</li> </ul> <p>It is also intended to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Investigate the success criteria of the schools reorganisation/building schemes</li> </ul>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Analyse the schools' situation before the development (using category/Estyn/GwE/results)</li> <li>- Gather qualitative data from school leaders, teaching staff, governors and GwE.</li> <li>- How can the quality of education be measured - what are the characteristics of good quality education?</li> <li>- Have results improved because of the change?</li> </ul> <p>Bro Llifon, Craig y Deryn, Glancegin, and Hendre schools will be looked at.</p>
DD	<p><b>Analysis</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Consider whether the developments have delivered on the success criteria of their business plans, the aims of the education modernising strategy, and the aims of the 21st Century schools plan</li> <li>- As regards value for money, improving the quality of education is what drives the modernisation programme and this must be borne in mind. It is, however, a valid question given the current financial climate.</li> </ul>
E	<p><b>Writing the Report</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Note and provide evidence of the main findings</li> <li>- Note recommendations</li> <li>- Discuss and agree on the draft report with relevant stakeholders</li> <li>- Submit the final draft report to the Committee</li> <li>- Publish the report</li> </ul>
F	<p><b>Action Plan</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Dependent on the results of the investigation</li> </ul>
FF	<p><b>Track Progress</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Dependent on the results of the investigation</li> </ul>

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<b>G</b>	<b>TIMETABLE</b>		
	<i>The main steps are noted below</i>		
	<b>What</b>	<b>Lead</b>	<b>Date</b>
1	Initial meeting	Sion Owen	9/10/18
2	Discuss Statistical and performance data	Sion Owen	TBA (October 2018)
4	School visits x4	Sion Owen	Late October- November 2018
5	GwE – ask their opinion on the quality of education at the schools in question	Sion Owen	November- December 2018
5	Discuss findings and recommendations	Sion Owen	December- January
6	Form Draft report	Sion Owen	January 2019
7	Form Final Report	Sion Owen	February 2019
8	Present Final report to the Committee	Sion Owen	March 2019