



## **Wellbeing Assessment Report**

Invest £1.1 million to increase capacity and improve the learning environment of the County's primary Language Centres.

- June 2022

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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.

<b>We will ensure that the residents of Gwynedd can:</b>	<b>Prosperous</b>	<b>Resilient</b>	<b>Healthier</b>	<b>Equal</b>	<b>Cohesive Communities</b>	<b>A vibrant culture where the Welsh language is thriving</b>	<b>Globally responsible</b>
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 THE CONTEXT OF THE IMMERSION EDUCATION PROVISION**

On 6 July 2021, the Cabinet approved a new vision for the Immersion Education Provision in Gwynedd towards 2032 and beyond. As part of this vision, and as a result of receiving £1.1m from the first phase of Welsh Government Welsh Medium Education Capital Grant funding, we are in the process of establishing two completely new immersion education sites in Gwynedd, located in strategic areas of the county, and areas of linguistic significance, namely Tywyn and Bangor. We are also in the process of improving the resources at the Porthmadog immersion education site, which is again strategically located in the middle of the county. These three sites will provide immersion education for learners in years 5-9 in a first-class learning environment.

In addition, we also have three primary age sites that provide immersion education to years 2-4. These immersion sites have not received any capital investment as part of the first phase of Welsh Medium Education Capital Grant funding, Welsh Government.

An opportunity was therefore seen to apply for a second phase of the Welsh Government Welsh Medium Education Capital Grant, to increase capacity and improve the learning environment in the three immersion education sites that did not receive investment in the first phase.

Through the proposal, the Education Department is keen to incorporate the requirements of the new Curriculum for Wales and offer cross-curricular experiences to all learners. It is also intended to ensure a strategic location for each of the immersion education sites which will allow access to experiences and increase the opportunities for the learners who are newcomers to use their Welsh outside the classroom by having them located within easy reach of facilities such as Gwynedd Libraries, Byw'n Iach Centres, shops, clubs and social enterprises, that will be an opportunity to expand the learners' experiences as they benefit from experiences that bring the Welsh language to life.

Since its establishment in the 1980s, the immersion provision in Gwynedd has pioneered the field, and the Provision will have a new look due to the modernization of the provision, the requirements of the Curriculum for Wales, all the capital investment and the best facilities one that continues to innovate now and into the future.

### **Maesincla Language Centre**

The Maesincla Language Centre is located within Ysgol Maesincla in Caernarfon. The space that the Maesincla Language Centre has is limited (namely two classes of different sizes, with one being very small), this impairs the quality of the experience for the learners. The Language Centre's space is also not convenient for introducing the Curriculum for Wales and rich cross-curricular experiences for the learners.

When considering that the Maesincla language centre will provide immersion education to years 2-4, it is necessary to consider the requirements of the Early Years and to plan a dedicated space for

play areas, and quiet areas as well. There is also no suitable space for meeting parents or external agencies as needed.

Through the Welsh Medium Education Capital Grant, it is intended to extend and modify the current space of the Maesincla Language Centre to improve the learning environment and ensure a dedicated space for the requirements of the Curriculum for Wales which would include indoor and outdoor play areas, together with suitable space for visitors.

### **Dolgellau Language Centre**

The Dolgellau Language Centre is currently located in a building between the Ysgol Bro Idris primary site, Dolgellau, and the Council's offices in Penarlâg, Dolgellau. The Dolgellau Language Centre currently only has space for one class that can hold a total of between 8-12 learners, and the Centre shares playtime and lunchtime facilities with Ysgol Bro Idris primary site. Based on the demand for immersion education in the area, there is a demand to increase the capacity of Dolgellau Language Centre and to increase the numbers of learners admitted to each site across the Immersion Education Provision. The space in the Language Centre is also not convenient for introducing the Curriculum for Wales and rich cross-curricular experiences for the learners.

When considering that the Dolgellau Language Centre will provide immersion education for years 2-4, it is necessary to consider the requirements of the Early Years and to plan a dedicated space for play areas, and quiet areas as well. Currently there is also no suitable space for meeting parents or external agencies as needed.

Through the Welsh Medium Education Capital Grant, it is intended to relocate the current site of the Dolgellau Language Centre to an alternative site at Ysgol Bro Idris, Dolgellau to increase the capacity of the Centre and improve the learning environment and ensure a dedicated space for the requirements of the Curriculum for Wales which would include indoor and outdoor play areas, together with a suitable space for visitors.

### **Llangybi Language Centre**

The Llangybi Language Centre is currently located as part of the Ysgol Llangybi building. The Language Centre in Llangybi is not located in a strategic location in the county, and the current location of the centre limits the experiences available to the learners to enrich their learning experiences. The space in the Language Centre is not suitable for introducing the Curriculum for Wales and rich cross-curricular experiences for the learners. When considering that the Llangybi Language Centre will provide immersion education for years 2-4, it is necessary to consider the requirements of the Early Years and to plan a dedicated space for play areas, and quiet areas as well. There is also no suitable space for meeting parents or external agencies as needed.

Through the Welsh Medium Education Capital Grant, it is intended to relocate the current site of the Llangybi Language Centre to a strategic location at the Ysgol Cymerau site in Pwllheli. This will improve the learning environment and ensure a dedicated space for the requirements of the Curriculum for Wales which would include indoor and outdoor play areas, together with a suitable space for visitors. By relocating to Pwllheli, it will also ensure consistency in the experiences that can be provided to the learners across the whole provision, as locating each of the immersion education sites in strategic locations will be a means of extending experiences and increase the opportunities for the learners who are newcomers to use their Welsh outside the classroom i.e. by having easy access to facilities such as Gwynedd Libraries, Byw'n Iach Centres, shops, clubs and social enterprises, bringing the Welsh language to life for the learners.

Relocating the Language Centre to Pwllheli will inevitably have an impact on Ysgol Llangybi from a social hub point of view. The Council recognises the special relationship that has existed between the school and the Language Centre over the years and is grateful to the school for hosting the Centre. Following the relocation, use of the Centre’s space will be available for the purpose of the school.

This investment would lead to improving the experiences, resources and learning environment for intensive immersion for learners in years 2-4 in Arfon, Dwyfor and Meirionnydd, together with enabling the Authority to provide immersion education to more learners in line with the increasing demand on the service.

At the moment the number of learner capacity in the immersion education settings is limited to 72 learners each term, however, the phase 1 capital investment together with the phase 2 capital investment means; that the number of learners who would be able to be immersed in the Language Centres will increase to approximately 96 learners each term.

Ensuring further capital investment in our immersion education provision in Gwynedd will therefore be a means of ensuring growth in the number of learners who benefit from Welsh and bilingual education in the county, together with ensuring an increase in the number of learners who use the Welsh language together in formal and informal context, contributing to achieving the Welsh Government's goal of one million Welsh speakers by 2050.

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

Gwynedd Council's well-being objectives were considered when evaluating the only option.

<b>Invest £1.1 million to harmonise capacity and improve the learning environment of the County's primary Language Centres.</b>	
<b>Objectives</b>	<b>Details:</b>
<b>Enjoy a happy, healthy and safe life</b>	There will be more capacity in the immersion education sites, and learners will be educated in a first-class learning environment. Learners will also benefit from maintaining contact with their local school and with peers to ensure their well-being.
<b>Live in quality homes within their communities</b>	No effect
<b>Earn a sufficient wage to support themselves and their families</b>	No effect
<b>Receive education of the highest quality that will allow them to do what they want to do</b>	Newcomers to Gwynedd will benefit from a first-class learning environment at each of the Immersion Education Provision sites across the county.
<b>To live with dignity and independently for as long as possible</b>	No effect
<b>Live in a naturally Welsh society</b>	Creating a first-class learning environment and increasing the capacity of the Language Centres will create the very best conditions to support the growth of the Welsh language among those learners who are newcomers to Gwynedd.

	<p>The main aim of the Immersion Education Provision is to support learners to acquire the Welsh language and create new Welsh speakers. The proposal therefore contributes to the Welsh Language Promotion Plan in Gwynedd 2018-23 by ensuring that "Schools and educational institutions give every support and encouragement to develop confident Welsh speakers." The proposal also contributes to the Welsh Government's goal of one million speakers by 2050.</p> <p>The relocation of the Llanybi Language Centre to Pwllheli will ensure consistency in the experiences that can be provided to the learners across the whole provision, as locating each of the immersion education sites in strategic locations will be a means of extending experiences and increase the opportunities for the learners who are newcomers to use their Welsh outside the classroom i.e. by having easy access to facilities such as Gwynedd Libraries, Byw'n Iach Centres, shops, clubs and social enterprises, thus bringing the Welsh language to life for the learners.</p> <p>Through the Immersion Education Provision, it is ensured that learners who are newcomers to Gwynedd succeed in acquiring the Welsh language and are assimilated into the natural Welsh and bilingual life of our communities throughout the county.</p>
<p><b>Take advantage of the County's beauty and natural environment</b></p>	<p>The aim of the project is to invest in the resources of the Immersion Provision which serves learners in years 2-4 of our schools in the Arfon, Dwyfor and Meirionnydd.</p> <p>The new arrivals often come from areas beyond the boundaries of the County, they also often come from municipal areas or areas that are very different from Gwynedd.</p> <p>The whole immersion provision of having received an equal investment would shape their seasonal activities together by ensuring that the unique natural environment relevant to each location, whether by the sea or the mountains is included in the lives and the education of all learners.</p> <p>The new Curriculum for Wales requires that education settings ensure that the unique natural environment that each area has is included as an integral part of the lessons and the life of the school/language centre.</p>

### 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><b>A prosperous Wales</b> An innovative society using resources efficiently and proportionately, educated people, creating wealth and work.</p>	<p>The proposal would mean that newcomers to Gwynedd are educated in a first-class learning environment.</p> <p>By locating each of the sites in a strategic location across the county, as a means of extending experiences and increasing the opportunities for the learners who are newcomers to use their Welsh outside the classroom i.e., by having easy access to facilities such as Gwynedd Libraries, Byw'n iach Centres, shops, clubs and social enterprises, thus bringing the Welsh language to life for the learners.</p> <p>It is therefore anticipated that it would enrich the learners' learning and social experiences.</p>	<p>No effect.</p>
<p><b>A resilient Wales</b> 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><b>A healthier Wales</b> A society where people's physical and mental well-being is as good as possible, and people understand what affects their health.</p>	<p>As part of the new vision for the Immersion Education Provision adopted by Cabinet, Gwynedd Council on 6 July 2021, ensuring the physical and mental well-being of the learners is central to the provision.</p>	<p>No effect.</p>
<p><b>A more equal Wales</b> A society that enables people to fulfil their potential irrespective of background or</p>	<p>The proposal will improve the learning environment and enable the Immersion Education Provision to offer education of the highest possible quality which</p>	<p>No effect.</p>



<p>circumstances (including their socio-economic background and circumstances).</p>	<p>will give the experiences, skills and confidence to the county's newcomers and enable them to develop to be bilingual and successful citizens.</p>	
<p><b>A Wales of cohesive communities</b> Attractive, viable and safe communities with good connections</p>	<p>By means of the capital investment all the sites of the Immersion Education Provision will be located in strategic areas of the county, continuing contact with their local school and peers which would be a means of promoting the continuation of good relations.</p>	<p>No effect.</p>
<p><b>A vibrant Wales and culture where the Welsh language thrives</b> 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>The proposal would mean that newcomers to Gwynedd are educated in a first-class learning environment.</p> <p>By locating each of the sites in a strategic location across the county, as a means of extending experiences and increasing the opportunities for the learners who are newcomers to use their Welsh outside the classroom i.e., by having easy access to facilities such as Gwynedd Libraries, Byw'n Iach Centres, shops, clubs and social enterprises, and community and cultural events thus bringing the Welsh language and culture to life for the learners.</p> <p>It is therefore anticipated that it would enrich the learning experiences and the social and cultural experiences of the learners.</p>	<p>No effect.</p>
<p><b>Wales is globally responsible.</b> 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><b>Long term</b> The importance of balancing short-term needs with the need to safeguard the ability to meet long-term needs is also important.</p>	<p>By means of the capital investment the learning environment of all the Immersion Education Provision sites will be suitable for the years to come. The fact that the Provision can accept more learners each term will enable the service to respond to any growth in demand for immersion education across the county in the future.</p>
<p><b>Suspension</b> How action to prevent problems from occurring or escalating can help public bodies achieve their objectives.</p>	<p>The implementation of the proposal will help the Council to respond to the growth in the number of newcomers to Gwynedd.</p>
<p><b>Integration</b> 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 created a new vision for immersion education in Gwynedd, and on 6 July 2021, the Cabinet approved the vision for the Immersion Education Provision in Gwynedd towards 2032 and beyond. As part of this vision, an investment of £2.2m will be made to improve the learning environment of each site, together with increasing capacity, and ensuring that the provision is located in strategic areas of the county.</p>
<p><b>Collaboration</b> Collaboration with any other person (or different departments within the organisation itself) could help the organisation meet its well-being goals.</p>	<p>The Education Department held discussions with relevant Headteachers and officers of the Housing and Property Department to find out their views on our plans. Our intention is to ensure that each Centre can offer the same experience and specialist facilities to all learners in whichever centre is closest to them.</p>
<p><b>Contents</b> 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>We have communicated with the head teachers at the schools that have a Language Centre located on their sites at the moment to let them know our intentions. We have also contacted the heads of the proposed sites that are part of our plans for the future to inform them of our intentions. Depending on the decision of the Cabinet, the next step will be to engage more widely with the key stakeholder regarding the intention and joint planning.</p> <p><b>Historic consultations (May 2021):</b> The Education Department held a period of engagement with key stakeholders on the new vision for the immersion education provision towards 2032 and beyond back in May 2021.</p>

	<p>As part of this engagement, a meeting was held to present the new vision with the Teachers' and Assistants' Unions together with a special meeting with the staff of the Language Centres on 27 May 2021, with an opportunity for the staff to consider the vision and submit comments by 21 June 2021. As part of the engagement, the new vision was presented to the Education and Economy Scrutiny Committee on 10 June 2021, together with the Language Committee on 22 June 2021 to receive the views of the elected members on the vision, together with an opportunity to scrutinise on it. The vision and plan to invest £1.1 million at that time received unanimous support for the proposal.</p>
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## 5. CONCLUSION

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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 allow learners who are newcomers to Gwynedd to be educated in a first class learning environment, located in strategic areas of the county, which will be a means of extending experiences and increasing the opportunities for the learners who are newcomers to use their Welsh outside the class i.e. by having easy access to facilities such as Gwynedd Libraries, Byw'n Iach Centres, shops, clubs and social enterprises, and community and cultural events thus bringing the Welsh language and culture to life for the learners, helping them to assimilate and thrive in our bilingual education provision and as complete members of our communities here in Gwynedd.