

North Wales Growth Integrated Impact Assessment Report

Programme	Low Carbon Energy
Project	Smart Local Energy
Lead officer responsible for assessment	Henry Aron
Office responsible for monitoring impact	Elgan Roberts
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DETAILS OF PROPOSAL - Aim/Purpose/Outcome

***Proposal refers to what is being assessed and includes, policies, strategies, functions, procedures, practices, initiatives, projects and savings proposals**

The aim of the Smart Local Energy project is to create prosperity in North Wales by supporting and enabling clean energy and decarbonisation solutions. This will be delivered by targeting investments in clean energy solutions that create new local job opportunities, will attract local investment and can be replicated throughout North Wales.

The project will establish a £25m fund to invest across all areas of intervention aligning with the Regional Energy Strategy. A fund administered by Ambition North Wales over a period of up to 10 years. Capital funding allocated through grants, loans or other financial instruments, with a target of 75% match as an average across the fund.

The project has 4 spending objectives:

1. Job Creation; Create 156-193 new jobs in North Wales associated with the delivery and operation of clean energy solutions that contribute towards net additional GVA of £110-134M by 2036.
2. Investment; Deliver a total investment of £101-111M in clean energy solutions in North Wales by 2036.
3. Carbon Saving; Generate 130,000-170,000 tonnes of carbon savings from improved efficiencies and decarbonisation of energy systems in North Wales using a diverse range of solutions by 2036.
4. Local Ownership; Establish a strong and sustainable local ownership element to new clean energy assets delivered and supported by ensuring Welsh Government's local & shared ownership policy objective is met or exceeded by all project investments.

Purpose

The document outlines the integrated impact assessment undertaken as part of this proposal. This integrated approach ensures that the impact assessment is proportionate and at the centre of policy making and delivery. The aim is to take a rounded view of the main impacts, both positive and negative and involve all persons affected by the proposal; and uses evidence to meet both the requirements of the *legislations* in the short-term and long-term.

The Integrated Assessment covers 3 key areas: Well-Being, Equalities and Welsh Language and provides an overall conclusion as to the impact the proposal will have. It will highlight any positive outcomes, ensure consideration is given against each of the elements within these 3 keys areas and detail any mitigating actions required using the Five Ways of Working.

Well-being:

The assessment will record any positive contributions and potential negative impacts against each of the 7 Well-Being goals in line with the Well-Being of Future Generations Act 2015. The objective will be to seek and secure where possible, sustained improvements in the economic, social, cultural and environmental wellbeing of people in the region and Wales as a whole. To identify key learning points through the 5 ways of working and seek to embed these improvements through a range of mediums: stakeholder engagements, looking at the long-term effects of the proposal and implementation of an agreed action plan to ensure monitoring of negative mitigations and contributions to positive impacts.

Equalities:

The duty to undertake Equalities Impact Assessment (EqIA) arises from the Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000, the Disability Discrimination Act 2005 and the Equality Act 2010. This assessment will help to ensure that any policies and decisions do not discriminate, that they promote equality wherever possible and that they foster good community relations. This will involve assessing the likely effects on people in respect of disability, gender, race, language, age, sexual orientation, gender reassignment and religion or belief. Where relevant, consideration will also be given to marriage and civil partnership and maternity and pregnancy. Additionally, it will consider it essential that policies and decisions are assessed in order to determine their impact on Welsh language. The assessment will proactively consider the positive and negative impact against the 11 Protective Characteristics as required under the equalities legislation (Equality Act 2010 (Statutory Duties) (Wales) Regulations 2011). This will ensure that there is no unlawful discrimination, harassment or victimisation and there is an equality of opportunity between people who share a relevant protected characteristic. Due regard will be given for advancing equality throughout the proposal.

Welsh Language:

The assessment reviews the impact of the proposal against the 3 Themes within the WG guide in line with The Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011; Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and the The Wales Spatial Plan

Monitoring and Review

Any actions identified as part of this impact review will be included in the action plan and reviewed regularly by the programme board. This document may be updated to include additional actions as identified as part of this monitoring process.

Supplementary Evidence - Links to documents/webpages (5 Ways of Working)	Well-Being	Equalities	Welsh Language
<p>Integration: What evidence and data has informed your proposal? Detail any policies and processes used in support of the assessment</p>	<p><i>Policies and strategies set out in section 1.3 of the Smart Local Energy OBC</i></p> <p><i>Data set out in sections 1.5 (existing arrangements) and 1.6 (business needs) of the Smart Local Energy OBC</i></p>	<p><i>Research from Future Generations Commissioner for Wales as set out in section 1.5 of Smart Local Energy OBC</i></p>	<p><i>Ambition North Wales has a Welsh Language policy with Gwynedd Council as host authority in accordance with the Welsh Language Act.</i></p>
<p>Collaboration: Stakeholders involved in the impact assessment and consultation process</p>	<p><i>Engaged with:</i> <i>Project and Programme Board members</i> <i>Ambition North Wales Portfolio Management Office</i> <i>North Wales 6 Local Authorities</i> <i>Welsh Government</i> <i>Businesses</i> <i>Community Energy groups</i> <i>Education providers</i> <i>Housing associations</i> <i>Finance providers</i></p> <p><i>Stakeholders participated in case for change workshop for the project</i></p>	<p><i>Ambition North Wales Portfolio Management Office</i></p>	<p><i>Ambition North Wales Portfolio Management Office</i></p>
<p>Involvement: Who does this proposal affect and how have they been involved in the consultation process</p>	<p><i>This proposal will affect communities and businesses in North Wales. They have been consulted during a market engagement questionnaire and have been represented at workshops by various key stakeholders working closely with the various groups.</i></p>	<p><i>This proposal will affect communities and businesses in North Wales. They have been consulted during a market engagement questionnaire and have been represented at workshops by various key stakeholders working closely with the various groups.</i></p>	<p><i>This proposal will affect communities and businesses in North Wales. They have been consulted during a market engagement questionnaire and have been represented at workshops by various key stakeholders working closely with the various groups.</i></p>
<p>Long-term: Base line information used to balance short-term needs and safeguard meeting long-term needs</p>	<p><i>Spending objectives are based on long-term benefits being realised from short-term interventions that reduce carbon emissions, create jobs and enable investment in North Wales.</i></p> <p><i>Main benefits are:</i> <i>-Increased high value employment</i> <i>-Income from energy generation</i> <i>-Reduced energy costs</i> <i>-Reduction in CO2 emissions</i></p>	<p><i>Benefits realisation plan sets out to...Increase high value employment, especially for women, young people from North Wales and those from low-income and rural communities</i></p>	<p><i>Strengthen economic base of North Wales, increased GVA, prosperity, high level skills leading to new employment and inward investment opportunities - possibility to increase number of Welsh language speakers.</i></p>



<p>Prevention: Details of any action plans following consultations to include monitoring</p>	<p><i>Benefits realisation plan</i> <i>Stakeholder engagement plan</i> <i>Performance management of fund investments</i></p>	<p><i>Procurement plan for the project aligned with Ambition North Wales' procurement principles</i></p> <p><i>Equality requirements integrated into funding application and eligibility criteria</i></p> <p><i>Performance management of fund investments</i></p>	<p><i>Procurement plan for the project aligned with Ambition North Wales' Social value principles</i></p> <p><i>Welsh language requirements integrated into funding application and eligibility criteria</i></p> <p><i>Performance management of fund investments</i></p>
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WELL-BEING IMPACT ASSESSMENT

The assessment will identify the impact against each of the 7 Well-being Goals and provide an overall Well-being rating being Positive / Neutral / Negative. It will also provide evidence in support of the results and detail any mitigating actions required to minimise any negative effect.

The overall impact rating for this section will be determined on the highest number of Positive, Neutral and Negative impacts recorded against each Well-Being goals.

Where there may be a negative impact identified a proposed action plan must be completed to determine what mitigating actions will be undertaken and monitored to minimise the effect.



IMPACT AGAINST THE 7 Well-being Goals			
A prosperous NW Region	Positive	A NW Region of cohesive communities	Positive
A resilient NW Region	Positive	A NW Region of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language	Neutral
A healthier NW Region	Neutral	A globally responsible NW Region	Positive
A more equal NW Region	Positive	OVERALL WELL-BEING ASSESSMENT	POSITIVE

Note the overall Well-being assessment conclusion below:

The project will have a positive impact on well being with the spending objectives very well aligned with contributing towards a prosperous, resilient, more equal and globally responsible north Wales region.

A prosperous NW Region:		
An innovative, productive and low carbon society which recognises the limits of the global environment and therefore uses resources efficiently and proportionately (including acting on climate change); and which develops a skilled and well-educated population in an economy which generates wealth and provides employment opportunities, allowing people to take advantage of the wealth generated through securing decent work.		
Overall Impact	Result:	Positive
Justification for Impact	Smart Local Energy fund will primarily support the Third Sector and Businesses to fund clean energy solutions and help them transition towards net zero. The fund will target projects that generate jobs, leverage investment, reduce carbon emissions and increase local ownership. It will also support innovative solutions where appropriate.	
Further actions Required	None	

A resilient NW Region:		
A nation which maintains and enhances a biodiverse natural environment with healthy functioning ecosystems that support social, economic and ecological resilience and the capacity to adapt to change (for example climate change).		
Overall Impact	Result:	Positive
Justification for Impact	Only projects that can demonstrate a reduction in carbon emissions will qualify for Smart Local Energy funding. Projects seeking funding will also have to demonstrate alignment with the Growth Deal's carbon emissions and biodiversity targets.	
Further Actions Required	The Emissions and Biodiversity methodology will be integrated into the Fund Management Plan and application process.	

A healthier NW Region: A society in which people's physical and mental well-being is maximised and in which choices and behaviours that benefit future health are understood.	
Overall Impact	Result: Neutral
Justification for Impact	Clean energy solutions and reduced carbon emissions could indirectly improve physical and mental well-being from improved air-quality, improved heating of properties and local prosperity - but these impacts would be difficult to attribute directly to this project.
Further Actions Required	None

A more equal NW Region: A society that enables people to fulfil their potential no matter what their background or circumstances (including their socio economic background and circumstances).	
Overall Impact	Result: Positive
Justification for Impact	The Smart Local Energy fund is aiming to support projects that reduce energy costs and generate income from energy generation as well as generate new high value employment in low-income and rural communities. This will contribute towards growth in regional prosperity and improvements in standards of living across the region.
Further Actions Required	Consider how the impact can be driven by the funding criteria and monitoring plan.

A NW Region of cohesive communities: Attractive, viable, safe and well-connected communities.		
Overall Impact	Result:	Positive
Justification for Impact	The Smart Local Energy fund will aim to support third sector organisations as well as the private sector organisations. Therefore there will be a sub-fund dedicated for third sector organisation (such as community energy organisations) who may look to develop Local Energy Systems that will contribute towards attractive, viable, safe and well-connected communities.	
Further Actions Required	Consider how the impact can be driven by the funding criteria and monitoring plan.	

A NW Region of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language: A society that promotes and protects culture, heritage and the Welsh language, and which encourages people to participate in the arts, and sports and recreation.		
Overall Impact	Result:	Neutral
Justification for Impact	The project will proactively encourage Welsh speakers to see economic benefit from the sector by working with the regional Mentrau Iaith and Local Authorities.	
Further Actions Required	None	

A globally responsible NW Region:	
A nation which, when doing anything to improve the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales, takes account of whether doing such a thing may make a positive contribution to global well-being.	
Overall Impact	Result: Positive
Justification for Impact	Reduced carbon emissions will have a positive impact on the climate globally and contribute towards global well-being.
Further Actions Required	None

<u>Evidence to support the Well-being Impact Assessment</u>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	We have consulted published research or guides that inform us about the likely impact of the proposal
<input type="checkbox"/>	We have involved an expert / consulted a group who represent those who may be affected by the proposal
<input type="checkbox"/>	We have engaged with people who will be affected by the proposal





EQUALITY IMPACT

This sections seeks to identify the impact the proposal will have on the protective characteristics. The aim will be to actively encourage equality and recognise the different needs, requirements and goals; to activity work against all forms of discrimination by promoting good relationships and mutual respect within and between our communities, residents, elected members and workforce. The aim is to be inclusive and create equality irrespective of ethic origin, sex, age, marital status, sexual orientation, disability, gender reassignment, religious beliefs or non-belief, use of Welsh Language in line with the Equality Act 2010.

This will included our duty to:

Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct that is prohibited by the Equality Act 2010

- advance equality of opportunity between people who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not
- foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.

Having due regard for advancing equality involves:

- removing or minimising disadvantages experienced by people due to their protected characteristics
- taking steps to meet the needs of people from protected groups where these are different from the needs of other people
- encouraging people with protected characteristics to participate in public life or in other activities where their participation is disproportionately low.



IMPACT AGAINST THE 11 PROTECTED CHARACTERISTICS			
Race	Neutral	Gender Reassignment	Neutral
Sex	Positive	Religion or Belief	Neutral
Disability	Neutral	Age	Positive
Welsh Language	Positive	Pregnancy	Neutral
Sexual Orientation	Neutral	Marriage	Neutral
Civil Partnerships	Neutral	OVERALL EQUALITIES ASSESSMENT	NEUTRAL

Note the overall conclusion below:

The project will have a positive impact on some of the protected characteristics, but will not have a negative impact on any. Integrating equality requirements into funding application process and eligibility criteria is key to ensuring no negative impacts.

Race	
Overall Impact	Result: Neutral
Justification for Impact	Equal access to employment will need to be demonstrated by applicants seeking Smart Local Energy funding.
Further Actions Required	None

Sex	
Overall Impact	Result: Positive
Justification for Impact	Equal access to employment will need to be demonstrated by applicants seeking Smart Local Energy funding, with the fund actively seeking to increase high value employment in the low carbon energy sector for women.
Further Actions Required	Consider how the impact can be driven by the funding criteria and monitoring plan.

Disability	
Overall Impact	Result: Neutral
Justification for Impact	Equal access to employment will need to be demonstrated by applicants seeking Smart Local Energy funding.
Further Actions Required	None

Welsh Language	
Overall Impact	Result: Positive
Justification for Impact	Strengthen the economic base of North Wales, increased GVA, prosperity, high level skills leading to new employment and inward investment opportunities - possibility to increase number of Welsh language speakers.
Further Actions Required	Consider how the impact can be driven by funding criteria and monitoring plan.

Sexual Orientation	
Overall Impact	Result: Neutral
Justification for Impact	Equal access to employment will need to be demonstrated by applicants seeking Smart Local Energy funding.
Further Actions Required	None

Gender Reassignment	
Overall Impact	Result: Neutral
Justification for Impact	Equal access to employment will need to be demonstrated by applicants seeking Smart Local Energy funding.
Further Actions Required	None

Religion or Belief	
Overall Impact	Result: Neutral
Justification for Impact	Equal access to employment will need to be demonstrated by applicants seeking Smart Local Energy funding.
Further Actions Required	None

Age	
Overall Impact	Result: Positive
Justification for Impact	Equal access to employment will need to be demonstrated by applicants seeking Smart Local Energy funding, with the fund actively seeking to increase high value employment for young people as well as opportunities for existing workforce to transition from existing fossil-fuel based employment into clean energy jobs.
Further Actions Required	Consider how the impact can be driven by funding criteria and monitoring plan.

Pregnancy	
Overall Impact	Result: Neutral
Justification for Impact	Equal access to employment will need to be demonstrated by applicants seeking Smart Local Energy funding.
Further Actions Required	None

Marriage	
Overall Impact	Result: Neutral
Justification for Impact	Equal access to employment will need to be demonstrated by applicants seeking Smart Local Energy funding.
Further Actions Required	None

Civil Partnerships	
Overall Impact	Result: Neutral
Justification for Impact	Equal access to employment will need to be demonstrated by applicants seeking Smart Local Energy funding.
Further Actions Required	None



WELSH LANGUAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT

As a general rule, if your policy has the potential to impact on people, it will impact in some way on Welsh speakers and therefore on the Welsh language.

On 10 July 2017, the First Minister and the Minister for Lifelong Learning and Welsh Language launched their strategy Cymraeg 2050 A million Welsh speakers. The vision of the strategy is to reach a million Welsh speakers by 2050 where “The Welsh language is thriving, the number of speakers has reached a million, and it is used in every aspect of life. Among those who do not speak Welsh there is goodwill and a sense of ownership towards the language and a recognition by all of its contribution to the culture, society and economy of Wales.” The strategy identifies that the challenge of achieving a million Welsh speakers by 2050 calls for far-reaching changes. Three strategic themes have been identified within the strategy to achieve its vision:

- Increasing the number of Welsh speakers;
- Increasing the use of Welsh; and
- Creating favourable conditions infrastructure and context.



Describe and explain the impact of the proposal on the Welsh Language, and explain how you will address these impacts in order to improve outcomes for the Welsh Language?

OVERALL WELSH LANGUAGE IMPACT ASSESSMENT	Positive
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Justification for Impact

Strengthen the economic base of North Wales, increased GVA, prosperity, high level skills leading to new employment and inward investment opportunities - possibility to increase number of Welsh language speakers.

Further Actions Required

Consider how the impact can be driven by the funding criteria and monitoring plan.

How does the proposal align with Welsh Government strategy for the Welsh language - Cymraeg 2050: A national strategy for increasing the number of Welsh speakers to a million by 2050

The project will proactively encourage Welsh speakers to see economic benefit from the sector by working with the regional Mentrau Iaith and Local Authorities

How will you mitigate any negative impact on the Welsh language or promote the positive impact on the language?	
Promote Positive Impact	All promotional materials, engagement and formal application documentation will be produced bilingually.
Mitigate Negative Impact	Consultation with key stakeholders will take place during to ensure any negative effects are monitored and mitigating actions are put in place if required.

Cymraeg 2050 Strategy Themes	Yes	No	N/A
Does the proposal have the potential to increase the number of Welsh Speakers? <i>Workforce, Resources, Qualifications?</i> If the policy has the potential to decrease the number of Welsh speaker outline steps to mitigate the adverse effect	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Provide details to support this			
Creating and safeguarding jobs to retain workers and their families in the region through. Local education providers are well positioned to offer low carbon training opportunities to local workers to reduce out-migration and potentially attract workers back into Wales that have previously left.			

Does the proposal encourage the use of Welsh? <i>Opportunities in the Workplace, Services or Social use of Welsh</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Provide details to support this			
The project will proactively encourage Welsh speakers to see economic benefit from the sector by working through the regional Mentrau Iaith and Local Authorities. All promotional materials, engagement and formal application documentation will be produced bilingually.			

Does the proposal look to create favourable conditions - Infrastructure and context? <i>Community & Economy, Culture & Media, Wales & the wider world, Digital technology, Linguistic infrastructure, Language planning,</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Provide details to support this			
Encouraging the use of Welsh through recruitment, procurement and adherence to policies already in place will help to create a thriving Welsh language culture during the life cycle of the project and beyond.			

