

## DECISION NOTICE OF AN INDIVIDUAL MEMBER OF GWYNEDD COUNCIL CABINET

**DATE OF DECISION 15 May 2023**

**DATE DECISION PUBLISHED 16 May 2023**

**DATE DECISION WILL COME INTO FORCE** and implemented,  
unless the decision is called in, in accordance with section 7.25 of  
the Gwynedd Council Constitution **23 May 2023**

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Cabinet Member: Beca Brown (Education Cabinet Member)

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**SUBJECT: Final decision on the proposal to extend the Ysgol Chwilog site which would increase the school's capacity from 65 to 95 pupils from 1 September 2023 onwards following a statutory objection period.**

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### **DECISION:**

Approve the proposal to extend the Ysgol Chwilog site which would increase the school's capacity from 65 to 95 pupils from 1 September 2023 onwards.

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### **REASON WHY THE DECISION IS NEEDED**

Pleas see attached Officer Report

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### **DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTEREST AND ANY RELEVANT DISPENSATIONS APPROVED BY THE COUNCIL'S STANDARDS COMMITTEE**

None

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### **ANY CONSULTATIONS UNDERTAKEN PRIOR TO MAKING THE DECISION**

Consultation with  
Gwynedd Council Statutory Officers  
Local Member

The results of the consultations are reported upon in the attached report

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**DECISION NOTICE OF AN INDIVIDUAL MEMBER OF THE GWYNEDD COUNCIL CABINET -  
OFFICER'S REPORT**

Name and title of the Cabinet Member:	Cllr. Beca Brown (Education Cabinet Member)
Name and title of Report Author:	Gwern ap Rhisiart (Assistant Head: Primary)
Date the Decision Was Taken:	15 Mai 2023
Signature of the Cabinet Member:	

**1. Subject:**

Final decision on the proposal to extend the Ysgol Chwilog site which would increase the school's capacity from 65 to 95 pupils from 1 September 2023 onwards following a statutory objection period.

**2. Recommendation for the Decision :**

Approve the proposal to extend the Ysgol Chwilog site which would increase the school's capacity from 65 to 95 pupils from 1 September 2023 onwards.

**3. Reason for the need for the Decision :**

Following the completion of the statutory procedure on the proposal to increase the capacity of Ysgol Chwilog from 65 to 95 pupils from 1 September 2023 onwards, in accordance with the requirements of the School Standards and Organisation Act (Wales) 2013 and the guidance of the School Organisation Code 006/2013, the Education Cabinet Member is required to approve the formal implementation of the proposal to enable the Education Department to make adaptations to the school in order to offer space for more learners.

**4. Rationale and justification for reaching the decision:**

Following Cabinet approval on 24 January 2023 a statutory notice was issued on the proposal on 8 February 2023 allowing a period of 28 days for anyone to object to the proposal. The objection period ended on 8 March 2023 and no objections to the proposal were received.

As a result, it is recommended to approve the proposal finally and allow Ysgol Chwilog to be modified in order to increase the capacity.

**5. A record of any interest declared by any Cabinet Member consulted and any dispensation by the Standards Committee:**

None

**6. Any consultations carried out before making the Decision:**

During the 2021 Summer Term the governing body of Ysgol Chwilog and its Local Member contacted the Department of Education regarding concerns about the school's lack of capacity to meet the increase in learner numbers due to housing developments within the school's natural catchment area.

An opportunity was seen to submit an application for the Welsh Government's Welsh Language Capital Grant, in order to respond to the situation of Ysgol Chwilog and two other schools, packaging the application around communities of linguistic significance (communities over 70% Welsh speakers). Following the submission of a business case application to the Welsh Government, confirmation was received in January 2023 that the application for capital funding for the work to adapt Ysgol Chwilog in order to increase capacity had been successful.

As the School Organisation Code states that a statutory process must be carried out if *'expanding a school site (except nursery schools and special schools), which would increase the school's capacity by at least 25%'* and that a class will be added to Ysgol Chwilog increasing the capacity to 95, which is an increase of over 25% from the current 65, it was necessary to carry out a statutory process before being able to make any adjustments that would lead to increasing the school's capacity.

At its meeting on 19 July 2022 the Cabinet approved holding a statutory consultation on the proposal to increase the capacity of Ysgol Chwilog to 95, an increase of over 25% of the current capacity, in accordance with the requirements of section 48 of the School

Standards and Organisation Act (Wales) 2013, reporting back to Cabinet following completion of the consultation.

### **Statutory consultation**

A statutory consultation period was held on the proposal with a relevant consultee between 19 October 2022 and 30 November 2022, following the requirements and guidelines of the School Organisation Code (011/2018).

18 responses to the statutory consultation were received, including a response from Estyn in the form of a report.

A report on the consultation was submitted to the Council's Cabinet on 24 January 2023. Following consideration of the report, Gwynedd Council's Cabinet approved the publication of a statutory notice and conducting an objection period, in accordance with the requirements of Section 48 of the School Standards and Organisation Act (Wales) 2013, on the proposal to extend the school site which would increase Ysgol Chwilog's capacity to 95 from 1 September 2023, which is an increase of over 25% of the current capacity.

### **7. Impact assessments**

The following impact assessments were carried out on initiation of the project and adapted as required:

- Equality, the Welsh language and socio-economic disadvantage
- Well-being
- The community, quality and standards of education and travel arrangements

A copy of the most recent assessments can be found in **Appendix A**.

### **8. Comments of Statutory Officers**

**Chief Finance Officer** – I can confirm that the Welsh Government has already approved a capital grant in order to proceed with this work. I have no objections to implementing the decision sought.

**Monitoring Officer** – This report has been the subject of advice from the Legal Service. Nothing to add from the perspective of propriety.

**Local Member** - No comments received

# Assessing the Impact on Protected Characteristics, the Welsh Language and Socio-Economic Disadvantage

For help to complete this form see the *How to Undertake an Equality Impact Assessment* leaflet. You are also welcome to contact Delyth Gadlys Williams, Policy and Equality Officer on ext. 32708 or [DelythGadlysWilliams@gwynedd.llyw.cymru](mailto:DelythGadlysWilliams@gwynedd.llyw.cymru) for further assistance.

The Council's is required (under the Equality Act 2010) to consider the effect any change in policy or procedure (or the creation of a new policy or procedure), has on people with protected equality characteristics. The Council also has a general duty to ensure fairness and foster good relations. A timely Equality Impact Assessment must be undertaken before making any decision on any relevant change (i.e. which has an effect on people with protected characteristics).

The Council is also required, under the requirements of the Welsh Language Standards (Section 44 of the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011) to consider the effect of a change in any policy or procedure (or the creation of a new policy or procedure), in its opportunities for people to use Welsh and to ensure that Welsh is not treated less favourably than English. This document therefore ensures that these decisions protect and promote the use of the Welsh language.

From April 1st 2021 the Council has a duty to have due regard to tackling socio-economic disadvantage in strategic decisions.

## 1) Details

### 1.1. What is the name of the policy / service in question?

Increase capacity in Ysgol Chwilog

### 1.2 What is the purpose of the policy / service that is being created or amended? What changes are being considered?

Increase places in Ysgol Chwilog to ensure sufficient capacity for current pupils and respond to future projections of population growth in the school catchment area

### 1.3 Who is responsible for this assessment?

Gareth Jones (Modernising Education Officer)

#### **1.4 When did you commence the assessment? Which version is this?**

June 2022 (1<sup>st</sup> version)  
December 2022 (2<sup>nd</sup> version)  
March 2023 (3<sup>rd</sup> version)

## **2) Action**

### **2.1 Who are the stakeholders or partners you need to work with to undertake this assessment?**

Gwynedd Council Education Department

Staff, governors, parents and children will be involved in the consultation

### **2.2 What measures have you taken to engage with people with equality characteristics, regarding the Welsh language or with communities (either of place or of need) that live with socio-economic disadvantage?**

We have communicated the proposal with the school involved.

We have discussed the need to maintain a statutory procedure with the headteacher of Ysgol Chwilog and communicate the need with the Governing Body.

We conducted a statutory consultation on the proposal with the beneficiaries of Ysgol Chwilog in order to receive their input. This was done because 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 the school's capacity 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, we have carried out a statutory procedure on the proposal before being able to make any adjustments that will lead to increasing the school's capacity.

We consulted with staff, parents, children and the wider community in Chwilog and neighbouring schools to receive their comments on increasing the capacity of Ysgol Chwilog including their comments on any impact on equality, the community or the Welsh language.

Following the statutory consultation we conducted a 28 day objection period on the proposal allowing interested parties an opportunity to object to the proposal. We received no objection or additional comments on the proposal during this period.

## 2.3 What was the result of the engagement?

Following engagement with all relevant stakeholders during the statutory consultation process in Chwilog, the comments below were received as a response to the impact assessment on the characteristics of equality, the Welsh language and socio-economic disadvantage and the Council's response to them can be seen:

1) A number of parents who can speak Welsh wish not to speak it to their children. Some of the children arrive at the school, with insufficient Welsh to be able to blend into the natural flow of the school. Do we therefore need another class in order to improve these children's Welsh so that their shortcomings do not have a negative effect on the classes of those who speak Welsh?

Cylch Meithrin Chwilog is located in the vestry of Capel Uchaf, opposite Ysgol Chwilog. The Cylch Meithrin has recently received praise in terms of their provision, and they lay a solid foundation in the Welsh language for nursery children of pre-school age through early immersion methods, which is helpful as the children transfer in due course from Cylch Meithrin to the Nursery Class at Ysgol Chwilog.

In addition, the Education Department has Language Centres located across the County, including one in Dwyfor, which accepts latecomers who arrive at local schools such as Ysgol Chwilog, and Headteachers and teachers of mainstream schools in the catchment area being able to refer learners who do not speak Welsh or lack confidence in their speaking, writing and listening skills in Welsh to the attention of the Immersion Education System. Recently, the staff of the Immersion Education System have also been holding training sessions on the principles of language immersion in the Foundation Phase for teachers and school assistants throughout the county, to ensure that appropriate immersion takes place in the Foundation Phase.

In addition, the Language Centres have a long tradition of providing Gloywi laith support to mainstream learners who need an extra boost with their skills and confidence in the Welsh language. As the new Immersion System has become operational since the beginning of January 2023, the Department will ensure the continuation of this practice of being able to offer language refresher sessions to children and young people in our schools, in order to reinforce their skills and confidence in Welsh further.

Therefore, this service is available to offer support to those children who need to improve their Welsh, and to schools that need help with immersing learners in the mainstream schools.

2) *Is it time to designate the school as a Welsh School, in order to protect interests?*

The national system of categorising schools according to the Welsh-medium provision has come into force since September 2022. In accordance with the Welsh Government's guide on the categorisation system, together with the requirements of the Gwynedd Education Language Policy, Gwynedd's primary schools, including Ysgol Chwilog, falls into Category 3 Welsh Medium, as the criteria reflect our current education language policy in terms of curriculum provision and the administrative language of our schools, namely a school where Welsh is the main language for internal communication, and a school with a strong Welsh ethos, supporting and enabling the learners to use the Welsh language in all social contexts in the school and

outside it. From the age of 7 onwards, at least 80% of the learner's school activities (both curricular and extra-curricular) will be in Welsh.

3) *As long as the school continues to offer Welsh as a first language, I do not consider this a concern.*

Ysgol Chwilog will continue to offer education through the medium of Welsh in accordance with the Gwynedd Education Language Policy.

## 2.4 On the basis of what other evidence are you operating?

During the Summer Term 2021 the school, local members and the governing bodies contacted the Education Department concerned about the lack of capacity of the school to meet the increase in a number of learners due to housing developments within the catchment area.

An application was submitted for a *Welsh Government Capital Grant* to create an additional class in the school in order to respond to the situation, packing the bid around communities of linguistic significance.

## 2.5 Are there any gaps in the evidence that needs to be collected?

All comments received during the consultations have been considered in the assessments.

## 3) Identifying the Impact

### 3.1 The Council must give due regard to the effect any changes will have on people with the equality characteristics noted below. What impact will the new policy/service or the proposed changes in the policy or service have on people with these characteristics?

Characteristics	What type of impact? *	In what way? What is the evidence?
<b>Race (including nationality)</b>	none	From a race perspective, there is no evidence that the change will affect this feature. All children will receive the same education and opportunities regardless of their race or nationality.
<b>Disability</b>	none	There is no evidence that the change will affect this feature. The Unit will include suitable accessible access for all children, from the point of view of the suitability of the rest of the Ysgol Chwilog building, the needs of any child with a disability will be considered in accordance with the Education Department's Accessibility and Equality policies.



<b>Sex</b>	none	There is no evidence yet that the change will affect this feature.
<b>Age</b>	positive	The change will mean more places in the school for all the children in the catchment area in the future. Without the change it is likely that some children in the catchment area would have to travel further and leave their local community to receive their education in other schools once Ysgol Chwilog has reached its capacity.
<b>Sexual orientation</b>	none	There is no evidence yet that the change will affect this feature.
<b>Religion or belief (or non-belief)</b>	none	There is no evidence yet that the change will affect this feature.
<b>Gender reassignment</b>	none	There is no evidence yet that the change will affect this feature.
<b>Pregnancy and maternity</b>	Positive / negative / none	Not applicable
<b>Marriage and civil partnership</b>	Positive / negative / none	Not applicable
<b>The Welsh language</b>	Positive	<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 community in Chwilog and the wider area.</p> <p>Chwilog is an area of linguistic significance, with over 70% of the population able to speak Welsh. Recently, the development of an estate of open market houses has been seen in the village which has led to a number of young Welsh speaking families moving to live in the village, leading to an increase in the number of learners who choose to attend their local school, namely Ysgol Chwilog. As a result of the development of this housing estate, two other proposed housing estates, together with the re-opening of the local pub Y Madryn by local businessmen, there are now a vibrant Welsh community activities in the village, which hopefully ensures that Chwilog will continue an area of linguistic significance, namely an area where over 70% of the population can speak Welsh for years to come.</p> <p>In order to support newcomers to blend into the education system and the bilingual society of which they are a part, the Education Department has Language Centres located across the County, including one in Dwyfor, which accepts latecomers that reach local schools such as Ysgol Chwilog, and Headteachers and teachers of</p>

		<p>mainstream schools in the catchment area are able to refer learners who do not speak Welsh or lack confidence in their Welsh speaking, writing and listening skills to the attention of the Immersion Education System. Recently, the staff of the Immersion Education System have also been holding training sessions on the principles of language immersion in the Foundation Phase for teachers and school assistants throughout the county, to ensure that appropriate immersion takes place in the Foundation Phase. In addition, the Language Centres have a long tradition of providing Gloywi Iaitth support to mainstream learners who need an extra boost with their skills and confidence in the Welsh language.</p> <p>As the new Immersion System has become operational since the beginning of January 2023, the Department will ensure the continuation of this practice of being able to offer language refresher sessions to children and young people in our schools, in order to reinforce their skills and confidence in Welsh further.</p> <p>Therefore, this service is available to offer support to those children who need to improve their Welsh, and to schools that need help with immersing learners in the mainstream schools.</p>
<p><b>Socio-Economic Disadvantage</b></p>	<p>Positive</p>	<p>By increasing the capacity of Ysgol Chwilog we will ensure places for all primary age children in their local school regardless of their socio-economic background. It is anticipated that creating enough space for all primary school children in the catchment area will create the best conditions for the prosperity of the community. Without the change it is likely that some children in the catchment area would have to travel further and leave their local community to receive their education in other schools once Ysgol Chwilog has reached its capacity, this could create a socio-economic disadvantage for some children and families. Ensuring sufficient space in the local school is a means of ensuring that the service the families need is within their local community.</p>

\* Delete as appropriate

**3.2 The Council has a duty under the 2010 Equality Act to contribute positively to a fairer society by promoting equality and good relations in its activities regarding the following characteristics – age, gender, sexual orientation, religion, race, gender reassignment, disability and pregnancy and maternity. The Council must give due attention to the way any change affects these duties.**

General Duties of the Equality Act	Does it have an impact?*	In what way? What is the evidence?
<b>Abolishing illegal discrimination, harassment and victimisation</b>	No	<p>The proposal will not alter schools' statutory duty to protect pupils from discrimination, harassment or victimisation.</p>
<b>Promoting equal opportunities</b>	Yes	<p>Increasing the school's capacity will promote equal opportunities by securing places for all children in the catchment area in their local school. This will be a means of ensuring that all the children of the catchment area can receive education in their local community, therefore being a means of promoting equal opportunities for all the children of the catchment area and the community. PSE lessons are held at the school which teach children about promoting equal opportunities. The school's current arrangements in the context of promoting equal opportunities will continue as a result of the proposal.</p> <p>The proposal will improve the school's ability to <i>"offer education of the highest possible quality which will give the children of the County the experiences, skills and confidence and enable them to develop into bilingual, successful and well-rounded citizens "</i> in accordance with the vision of the Best Quality Primary Education Strategy for the Children of Gwynedd.</p>
<b>Encouraging good relationships</b>	Yes	<p>Increasing the school's capacity will be a means of fostering good relationships by ensuring places for all the children in the catchment area to access their local school. This will be a means of ensuring that all children in the catchment area can receive education in their local community, as it will therefore be a means of fostering good relationships between the children with each other, together with between the school and the community. PSE lessons are held at the school which teach children how to build good relationships. The school's current arrangements in the context of fostering good relationships will continue as a result of the proposal.</p> <p>The proposal will improve the school's ability to <i>"offer education of the highest possible quality which will give the children of the County the experiences, skills and confidence and enable them to develop into bilingual, successful and well-rounded citizens"</i> in accordance with the vision of the Best Quality Primary Education Strategy for the Children of Gwynedd.</p>

\* to be deleted as appropriate

**3.3 How does your proposal ensure that you work in accordance with the requirements of the Welsh Language Standards (Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011), to ensure that the Welsh language is not treated less favourably than English and that you seize every opportunity to promote the Welsh language (beyond providing services bilingually) and increase opportunities to use and learn the language in the community?**

It is not envisaged that adding a classroom and increasing the capacity of Ysgol Chwilog will change the way the school currently treat the Welsh language, and the school will continue to take every opportunity to promote the use of the language in the school and the community.

Increasing the school's capacity will be a means of securing places for all the children of the catchment area in their local school, and an opportunity to further promote the Welsh language in an area of linguistic significance.

**3.4 What other measures or changes could you include to strengthen or change the policy / practice in order to have a positive impact on people's opportunities to use the Welsh language, and to reduce or prevent any adverse effects that the policy / practice may have on the Welsh language?**

As part of the statutory consultation at Ysgol Chwilog we will give beneficiaries the opportunity to comment on any impact the recommendation may have on the Welsh language and respond to any concerns expressed.

Increasing the school's capacity will be a means of securing places for all the children of the catchment area in their local school, and an opportunity to further promote the Welsh language in an area of linguistic significance.

**3.5 How does the proposal show that you have had due regard to the need to address inequality caused by socio-economic disadvantage? (Note that this is about closing inequality gaps rather than just improving outcomes for everyone)?**

By increasing the capacity of Ysgol Chwilog we will ensure places for all primary age children in their local school regardless of their socio-economic background. It is anticipated that creating enough space for all primary school children in the catchment area will create the best conditions for the prosperity of the community. Without the change it is likely that some children in the catchment area will have to travel further and leave their local community to receive their education in other schools once Ysgol Chwilog has reached its capacity this could create a socio-economic disadvantage for some of the children and families. These children would also miss out on the opportunity to mix with peers in their local community during school hours and this can lead to difficulties creating a circle of friends and taking advantage of services in their community. Ensuring sufficient space in the local school is a means of ensuring that the service the families need is within their local community.

**3.6 What other measures or changes might you include to strengthen or change the policy / practice to show that you have had due regard to the need to reduce disproportionate outcomes as a result of socio-economic disadvantage, in accordance with the Socio-Economic Act?**

As a result of the proposal, the school will continue to operate in accordance with its policies and the expectations of the Department of Education to reduce unequal results as a result of socio-economic disadvantage in accordance with the Socio-Economic Act.

**4) Analysing the Results**

**4.1 Is the policy therefore likely to have a significant, positive impact on any of the above and what is the reason for this?**

It is predicted that increasing the capacity of Ysgol Chwilog will have a positive impact on equality, the Welsh language and socio-economic because it is predicted that it will create enough space for all primary school children in the catchment area creating a solid infrastructure for the community and creating the best conditions to the Welsh language and the prosperity of the community. Children in the catchment area will be able to receive education in their community, contributing to the prosperity of the Welsh language in an area of linguistic significance. Without the change it is likely that some children in the catchment area will have to travel further and leave their local community to receive their education in other schools once Ysgol Chwilog has reached its capacity this could create a socio-economic disadvantage for some of the children and families. These children would also miss out on the opportunity to mix with peers in their local community during school hours and this can lead to difficulties creating a circle of friends and taking advantage of services in their community. Ensuring sufficient space in the local school is a means of ensuring that the service the families need is within their local community.

**4.2 Is the policy therefore likely to have a significant, negative impact on any of the above and what is the reason for this?**

It is not anticipated that increasing the capacity of Ysgol Chwilog will have a significant negative impact on equality, Welsh language or socio-economic as the school will continue to serve their catchment area as it is at present.

**4.3 What should be done?**

Choose one of the following:

Continue with the policy / service as it is robust	Continue
Adapt the policy to delete any barriers	
Suspend and delete the policy as the detrimental impacts are too big	
Continue with the policy as any detrimental impact can be justified	

No further action at this time because it is too soon to decide, or there is insufficient evidence	

**4.4 If continuing with the project, what steps will you take to reduce or mitigate any negative impacts?**

Although we do not anticipate any negative impact we will continue to monitor and take action to mitigate any negative impacts as required.

**4.5 If you are not taking any further action to delete or reduce the negative impacts, explain why here.**

No negative impact has been identified at this stage.

**5) Monitoring**

**5.1 What steps will you take to monitor the impact and effectiveness of the policy or service (action plan)?**

We will monitor the impact of any change to ensure that the outcomes are positive and have no negative impact. This will happen in collaboration with the school following the creation of the additional class and accepting more learners to the school i.e. from September 2023 onwards.

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

## 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.

	Prosperous	Resilient	Healthier	Equal	Cohesive Communities	A vibrant culture where the Welsh language is thriving	Globally responsible
<b>We will ensure that the residents of Gwynedd can:</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 Context

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

An opportunity was seen to apply for a Welsh Capital Grant to try to respond to the situation of the 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 the community, creating the very best conditions for the Welsh language and the prosperity of the community.

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, a statutory procedure was carried out on the proposal during October – November 2022.

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

<b>Increase the capacity of Ysgol Chwilog</b>	
<b>Objectives</b>	<b>Details:</b>
<b>Enjoy a happy, healthy and safe life</b>	There will be more space in the school. The pupils will be taught in classes that offer a suitable space. All pupils in the catchment area will be able to receive their education within their local community.
<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>	The proposal will improve the school's ability to <i>"offer education of the highest possible quality which will give the children of the County the experiences, skills and confidence and enable them to develop into bilingual, successful and well-rounded citizens"</i> in accordance with the vision of the Best Quality Primary Education Strategy for the Children of Gwynedd.



	<p>The proposal would mean that there is enough space in the school to teach all the children in the catchment area in classes suitable for the numbers. It is therefore anticipated that it would enrich the pupils' learning and social experiences.</p> <p>Adding a class to Ysgol Chwilog will also be an opportunity to create more new resources and more space in the school which will improve the learning environment for all children and staff.</p> <p>Ysgol Chwilog has had a very positive Estyn report (summer 2022), therefore, all the children in the catchment area will be able to access first class education at Ysgol Chwilog.</p>
<p><b>To live with dignity and independently for as long as possible</b></p>	<p>No effect</p>
<p><b>Live in a naturally Welsh society</b></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 conditions that will support the prosperity of the Welsh language among the children and the community.</p> <p>Chwilog is an area of linguistic significance, with over 70% of the population able to speak Welsh. By increasing the school's capacity in response to the growth in the population due to housing developments and the economic development of Y Madryn it can create a solid infrastructure for the community, creating the very best conditions for the Welsh language and the prosperity of the community.</p>
<p><b>Take advantage beauty of the County's natural environment</b></p>	<p>No effect</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 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><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>It is not anticipated that the proposal is likely to have an impact on this aim.</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 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><b>A Wales of cohesive communities</b> 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><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>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><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>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><b>Suspension</b> 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><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 began the process of reviewing the school situation in the wake of a critical situation facing the school.</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>Collaboration with other relevant departments and the individual school will be an important part of achieving the objectives for the benefit of the school and children in the catchment area.</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>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 Chwillog. 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

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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 ensure that children in the catchment area are educated in suitably sized school 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 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.

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 community.



**Community Impact Assessment  
Report,  
Quality and Standards of Education,  
Travel Arrangements,**

**Ysgol Chwilog**

- December 2022

# Community Impact Assessment Report

Ysgol Chwilog is located in the centre of the village of Chwilog, located between Y Ffôr and Cricieth in Gwynedd. The school's catchment area includes the village and nearby area, located between the catchment areas of Ysgol Bro Plenydd (Y Ffôr), Ysgol Abererch, Ysgol Llanystumdwy and Ysgol Llanybi.

Ysgol Chwilog is located in Dwyfor and in the Llanystumdwy ward. The latest data (2011 census) shows that the population of the Llanystumdwy ward is 2,080.

## 1.1 The Economy

1,460 people aged between 16 and 74 years of age live within the Llanystumdwy ward. 1,020 are economically active. 440 people in the same age group are economically inactive, with 65 of these being long-term ill or disabled.

The type of industry in which the population is active varies in the area, with the highest rate (13.7%) working in the Education field.

A number of businesses operate in the village, including a pub, post office and caravan park.

## 1.2 The Community

A number of activities are held in Chwilog, including;

- Cylch Meithrin
- Sunday School
- Merched y Wawr
- Welsh for Adults in the Madryn
- Y Gymdeithas
- Snooker Club
- Annual Eisteddfod
- Fitness Activities
- And other various activities in the Hall

In addition, there are a number of facilities in the village, including Siloh Chapel and Capel Uchaf, Village Hall, Post Office, Butcher, Pub and Children's Playing Field.

## 1.3 Summary of the school's use outside the school's core hours

Play Groups (School holidays)	
Aelwyd yr Urdd	✓
Drama	
Voluntary Groups	
Coffee Morning/Evening	✓
Community Auction	✓
Community Library	
Choir Practice	
Welsh for Adults	✓

Town/Community Council Meeting	
Cylch/Ysgol Feithrin	✓
Sports Club/Activity	
Breakfast Club	✓
After School Club	
Local Interest Club	

Source: Headteachers June 2022

#### 1.4 Summary of the various facilities in the Communities

The following information has been gathered about the area of the school in question:

Village Hall Community Centre	✓
Chapel/Church	✓
Public Transport	✓
Shop	✓
Café/Pub	✓
Post Office	✓
Surgery/Pharmacy	X
Library	X
Children's Playing Field	✓
Bank	X
Residential Home for the Elderly	X
Leisure Centre	X
Garage	X
Tourism Attraction	X
Cylch Ti a Fi + Cylch Meithrin	✓

Source: Headteachers June 2022

#### 1.5 Summary of activities or groups that the school is regularly involved with:

Cylchoedd Meithrin/Ti a Fi	✓
Eisteddfod (Local/Regional/National)	✓
Adrannau'r Urdd	✓
Visits to Glan-llyn / Llangrannog / Cardiff	✓
Other activities (sports, clubs)	✓

Source: Headteachers June 2022

#### 1.6 Deprivation

The Llanystumdwy Ward (which is a broader area than the geographical area of the Ysgol Chwilog's catchment area) is in the 50% most deprived wards in Wales (ranked 1,102 out of 1909 wards).

A number of fields are measured to draw up this general index, including income, employment, health, education, access to services, community safety, physical environment and housing (see the table below).

It is noted that the Llanystumdwy ward is within the 10% of most deprived wards in Wales in the field of 'access to services', i.e. deprivation as people are not able to access a variety of services that are considered essential for everyday living. The indicators include the average public transport and private travel times to a number of services such as supermarkets, surgeries, primary and secondary schools, post office, public library, pharmacy, leisure centre and private travel time to a petrol station.

In addition, the Llanystumdwy ward is within the 10% of most deprived areas in Wales in the field of 'Housing'. The indicators of this field are the proportion of people who live in an overcrowded home (bedroom use), and the proportion of people living in homes that do not have central heating.

Below is a summary of how the Llanystumdwy ward is placed in the context of other areas in Wales according to the Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation (2014):

Area	Rank in Wales, out of 1909 areas. 1 = most deprived 1909 = least deprived	Most deprived % in Wales
Income	1,475	in the least deprived 50%
Employment	1,589	in the least deprived 50%
Health	1,485	in the least deprived 50%
Education	1,460	in the least deprived 50%
Access to services	152	in the 10% most deprived
Community safety	1.339	in the least deprived 50%
Physical environment	1,273	in the least deprived 50%
Housing	54	in the 10% most deprived

### 1.7 Context of the school according to Estyn Inspection Reports (May 2022)

As part of the Estyn reports, the authors, i.e. the inspectors, will place the schools within their context and will detail their community connections. This is the context given to Ysgol Chwilog by Estyn inspectors.

“The way in which staff promote Welsh culture, heritage and the Welsh language is a significant strength across the school. As a result, pupils’ pride in their Welshness is highly effective. The Welsh and Welsh language ethos within the school spreads successfully to the local community”

“Staff encourage pupils to be responsible citizens who are willing to help others. There are a number of active committees at the school that meet regularly and their contribution to the work of the school and the community is very valuable. They promote the pupil’s voice and encourage them to shoulder responsibilities and make sensible decisions.”



## 1.8 Assessment of the Probable Impact on the Community

In order to assess the community impact of the potential models, it was decided to create criteria in accordance with the recommendations of the community impact considerations of the School Organisation Code 011/2018.

<b>Positive</b>	<b>Neutral</b>	<b>Negative</b>
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Impact Criteria	Description	Status of the impact and the work
Impact on Health and Well-being	No change	Neutral
Implications of the change on public transport provisions	No change	Neutral
Impact on facilities/other services provided at the school	No change	Neutral
The impact on broader community safety	<p>Following the holding of the statutory consultation, some comments were received worrying about the effect of the increase in pupil numbers on the number of cars that would transport the children to school.</p> <p>As the new housing estates, which are the main driver of the need for additional places at Ysgol Chwillog, are located within a reasonable distance of the school, and there are footpaths between the estates and the school, in accordance with Welsh Government policies, we will encourage learners to use active travel to school e.g. walking and cycling. Doing this would ensure that an increase in learner numbers would not lead to an increase in the use of cars for the school.</p> <p>We will also commission a survey in order to understand the problems created as a result of using cars to transport children to school identifying and assessing any ways to overcome the problems.</p>	Neutral
Would the option encourage families and school-age children to leave the community, or would young families be less likely to move to the community	Increasing the capacity will secure plenty of places at the school for all children in the catchment area and will therefore secure them an education in their community.	Positive

Impact on other services provided locally	No change	Neutral
Detrimental effect on the community's broader economy	No change	Neutral
The general impact on the local community	Increasing the capacity will secure plenty of places at the school for all children in the catchment area and will therefore secure them an education in their community.	Positive

### 3. CONCLUSION

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Following consideration of the impact of the proposal on the Ysgol Chwilog community it is possible that increasing the school's capacity by adding a class will have a negative impact on the number of parents who will choose to transport children to school by car. We will commission a survey in order to understand the problems created as a result of using cars to transport children to school identifying and assessing any ways to overcome the problems.

It is anticipated that increasing the capacity will create enough space for all primary school children in the catchment area creating a solid infrastructure for the community and creating the best conditions for the Welsh language and the prosperity of the community.

# Quality and Standards of Education Assessment Report

## 1. YSGOL CHWILOG

Ysgol Chwilog was inspected by Estyn in May 2022. Estyn changed their way of inspecting schools in 2022 and now their reports do not include summary grades e.g. 'Excellent', 'Good', 'Sufficient' and 'Unsatisfactory'. Their reports now focus and detail how well providers help a child learn. This means that it is no longer possible to show an assessment of the likely impact of the proposal on Estyn's five relevant inspection areas as stated in 'Quality and standards in education' in the School Organisation Code (011/2018).

The full report can be viewed by following the link below:

[Inspection report Y.G. Chwilog 2022 | Estyn \(gov.wales\)](#)

As can be seen from the Estyn report there are a number of strengths from Ysgol Chwilog including praise for the use made of the Welsh language by the learners.

Estyn's report also refers to elements to be improved including the use of IT across the school's activities

### 1.1 Assessment of the Impact on the Quality and Standards of Education

Positive	Neutral	Neutral
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Impact Criteria	Description	Status of the impact and the work
Standards and general progress of specific groups and in terms of skills	No change	Neutral
Well-being and attitudes to learning	No change	Neutral
Teaching and learning experiences	<p>Adding a classroom will ensure sufficient space in order to educate all children in the catchment area in suitable classes of the correct size.</p> <p>During the statutory consultation some pointed out the lack of space and the unsuitability of the school</p>	Positive

	<p>to receive many more children.</p> <p>Officers from the Education and Property Departments have visited Ysgol Chwilog to carry out a suitability assessment in order to identify any adjustments that need to be made to ensure a suitable and sufficient environment for the school's needs.</p> <p>As a result, we can confirm that we will respond to the need to adapt resources by either locating them as part of the new Unit or by carrying out modifications to the main building.</p>	
Care, support and guidance	No change	Neutral
Leadership and management	No change	Neutral
Vulnerable groups, including children with Additional Learning Needs (ALN)	No change	Neutral
A provision that at least equates to what is available to learners at the time (including those with ALN)	Adding a classroom will ensure sufficient space in order to educate all children in the catchment area in suitable classes of the correct size.	Positive

## 2. CONCLUSION

Following an assessment of the impact of the proposal on the quality and standards of education, we are of the opinion that the school's capacity would be increased by adding a class and adapting resources by either locating them as part of the new Unit or by carrying out modifications to the main building ensures enough space for teaching all the children in the catchment area in suitable classes of the right size.

# Assessment of the Impact on Travel Arrangements

## 1. GWYNEDD COUNCIL TRANSPORT POLICY

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In accordance with Gwynedd Council's transport policy, free transport is available:

- for learners who live two or more miles from the school in their catchment area, or the closest school (excluding nursery pupils).
- when learners who receive a primary education live less than two miles from the catchment area school they therefore are not entitled to free transport, but if traveling to the school along a road that is considered by the Council to be especially dangerous, free transport is offered.

The transport policy can be seen in the parents' handbook:

(<https://www.gwynedd.llyw.cymru/en/Residents/Documents-Residents/Schools-and-learning-documents/School-Admissions/Guide-Book.pdf>)

## 2. THE CURRENT SITUATION

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At present, 4 pupils receive free transport to Ysgol Chwilog.

## 3. COMMENTS FOLLOWING STATUTORY CONSULTATION

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Following the holding of the statutory consultation, some comments were received worrying about the effect of the increase in pupil numbers on the number of people who may be using cars to transport children to school

As the new housing estates, which is the main driver of the need for additional places at Ysgol Chwilog, are located within a reasonable distance of the school, and there are footpaths between the estates and the school, in accordance with Welsh Government policies, we will encourage learners to use active travel to school e.g. walking and cycling. Doing this would ensure that an increase in learner numbers would not lead to an increase in the use of cars for the school.

We will also commission a survey in order to understand the problems created as a result of using cars to transport children to school identifying and assessing any ways to overcome the problems.

## 4. CONCLUSION

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As we are considering increasing the capacity of the school in response to the projected increases within the catchment area, and anticipate that the homes of the majority of the children will be located within two miles of the school, and considering the existing numbers who receive free transportation as a benchmark, it is not anticipated that there will be any significant impact on transport arrangements as a result of increasing the capacity of the school. Nevertheless, we will commission a survey in order to understand the problems created as a result of using cars to transport children to school and identify and assess any ways to overcome the problems.