

Impact Assessment - First Stage

1. Details of the initiative

Initiative description and summary: Approval to submit expression of interest application for Welsh-medium capital grant funding
Service Area: Strategic School Improvement Programme
Directorate: Education, Leisure and Lifelong Learning

2. Does the initiative affect:

	Yes	No
Service users	x	
Staff	x	
Wider community	x	
Internal administrative process only		x

3. Does the initiative impact on people because of their:

	Yes	No	None/ Negligible	Don't Know	Impact H/M/L	Reasons for your decision (including evidence)/How might it impact?
Age	x				H	If the application is successful then all schemes will seek to increase and improve provision for primary school aged children. In addition there may be a positive impact on adults and older children if the Welsh language is learnt by younger children and spoken within the home setting. The Neath Port Talbot Welsh Education Strategic Plan (WESP) aims to increase the numbers of learners accessing Welsh-medium (WM) education from birth to post 18. Outcome 1 in the WESP specifically promotes key agencies, including education, working in partnership with the wider community to promote the

						benefits of bilingualism. Outcome 5 also promotes the use of Welsh outside of the classroom and in the community. This aims to have a significant effect on parents and the wider community. The Neath Port Talbot Welsh Language Strategy, Priority 2, also promotes the use of Welsh with families and the wider community leading to a potential increase in Welsh speakers within the Local Authority.
Disability	x				H	If the application is successful then one scheme would seek to further develop provision for pupils with Additional Learning Needs (ALN)
Gender Reassignment		x				This is not a criterion considered in terms of the Council's education arrangements either for pupils or school staff.
Marriage/Civil Partnership		x				This is not a criterion that will be impacted upon by this proposal
Pregnancy/Maternity		x				This is not a criterion that will be impacted upon by this proposal
Race	x				M	It is evident from WM school data that families from different ethnic backgrounds choose WM education, with many English families moving to the area and making the informed decision to educate their children in WM schools. Both the WESP and the Neath Port Talbot Welsh Language Strategy aim to inform and support these families when making the decision about choosing WM education. These aims significantly alleviate concerns and it is anticipated that this will lead to an increase in the number of pupils from ethnic backgrounds attending WM education.
Religion/Belief		x				This is not a criterion that will be impacted upon by this proposal, however, it is expected that the Council's educational arrangements will meet the needs of pupils

						or staff members of different religions or with different beliefs.
Sex		x				Both the WESP and the Neath Port Talbot Welsh Language Strategy aim to provide a plethora of opportunities for both boys and girls to develop and use Welsh outside of the classroom through cultural and sporting activities within school and in the wider community. These opportunities ensure that learners, both boys and girls, have access to the Welsh language both formally and informally, which could lead to an increase in the use of Welsh in the wider community.
Sexual orientation		x				This is not a criterion that will be impacted upon by this proposal

4. Does the initiative impact on:

	Yes	No	None/ Negligible	Don't know	Impact H/M/L	Reasons for your decision (including evidence used) / How might it impact?
People's opportunities to use the Welsh language	X				H	If the application is successful then the grant funding will be used to increase and enhance Welsh-medium provision for primary school aged pupils
Treating the Welsh language no less favourably than English	X				H	Additional provision will provide opportunities to increase the number of pupils accessing Welsh-medium schools and increase the development of the Welsh language.

5. Does the initiative impact on biodiversity:

	Yes	No	None/ Negligible	Don't know	Impact H/M/L	Reasons for your decision (including evidence) / How might it impact?
To maintain and enhance biodiversity			x			As all proposed schemes will be undertaken on already occupied school sites, it is unlikely that there will be any new impact on biodiversity
To promote the resilience of ecosystems, i.e. supporting protection of the wider environment, such as air quality, flood alleviation, etc.			x			

6. Does the initiative embrace the sustainable development principle (5 ways of working):

	Yes	No	Details
Long term - how the initiative supports the long term well-being of people	x		The proposals if implemented is expected to positively impact on pupils aged 3-11 and on older children and adult users including parents, staff, Governors and members of the local communities. The enhanced education facilities will improve wellbeing, and will aim to promote the development of the Welsh language leading to increased opportunities to participate in the language and culture of Wales
Integration - how the initiative impacts upon our wellbeing objectives	x		The Strategic School Improvement Programme and its related projects are included in the Directorate's plans which link to the Council's wellbeing objectives. The proposal directly supports wellbeing objective 1 – 'to improve the wellbeing of children and young people' through the provision of enhanced facilities and provision for current and future generations of primary aged pupils. Through creating facilities that can be used by the community the proposal also supports wellbeing objective 2 – 'to improve the wellbeing of all adults who live in the county borough' and wellbeing

			objective 3 'to develop the local economy and environment so that the wellbeing of people can be improved', through the creation of jobs during the construction phase and beyond.
Involvement - how people have been involved in developing the initiative	x		Informal consultation has taken place with schools named in the report, and with colleagues across the council.
Collaboration - how we have worked with other services/organisations to find shared sustainable solutions	x		The proposed schemes support the WESP objectives which have been developed in conjunction with and supported by Welsh language stakeholder groups
Prevention - how the initiative will prevent problems occurring or getting worse	x		If implemented the proposal will provide improved teaching and learning facilities for primary aged pupils and preschool children accessing Welsh-medium provision now and in the future.

7. Declaration - based on above assessment (tick as appropriate):

A full impact assessment (second stage) is not required	X
Reasons for this conclusion	
<p>At this stage approval is sought to submit a bid for grant funding. The submission outlines possible schemes for consideration and following the application a decision will be made on which schemes will be successful. Further details will then be required by Welsh Government in order to make a final decision on whether to award grant funding or not.</p> <p>If an award is made for any or all of the proposed projects are eligible for funding then more detailed work on each of the successful schemes will be needed. It may be necessary to undergo statutory processes which will be more specific to the individual scheme and which will require member approval. At this point further screening for possible impacts will be needed</p>	
A full impact assessment (second stage) is required	
Reasons for this conclusion	

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	Name	Position	Signature	Date
Completed by	R.R. Crowhurst	Head of Service		30.9.21
Signed off by	A.D. Thomas	Director ELLL		6.10.21