Isle of Anglesey County Council	
Report to:	**The Executive**
Date:	**13 December 2021**
Subject:	**Anglesey Digital Schools Strategy**
Portfolio Holder(s):	**Cllr Llinos Medi Huws**
Head of Service / Director:	**Dylan Williams** **Deputy Chief Executive**
Report Author: E-mail:	**Susan Owen Jones, Executive Manager (SLT)** SusanJones4@ynysmon.gov.uk **Owen T. Davies, Senior Manager (Primary)** OwenDavies@ynysmon.gov.uk **Mathew Henshaw, IT Team Manager** MathewHenshaw@ynysmon.gov.uk
Local Members:	**All elected Members**

A –Recommendation/s and reason/s

The report presents the first Digital Schools Strategy for Anglesey that sets out our vision; underpinned by overarching principles and key priority areas for the provision of ICT Services to Schools.

It is recommended:
R1. That the Executive approve the draft Digital Schools Strategy.
R2. That the Executive authorises the additional funding requirement of £135,439 in order to implement the strategy.

Reasons:

Context
Digital has many meanings in today's society and is enabling new approaches to be taken in every part of our daily lives. Nowhere is this more evident than in our schools. The ability to change and adapt quickly and effectively, whilst working in partnership was evident during the COVID 19 response, which must now be harnessed into the future.

In light of the Curriculum for Wales, digital competence (alongside literacy and numeracy) will become a mandatory cross-curricular skill which must be embedded in any adopted curriculum. Digital competence focuses on ensuring that learners have the ability to learn, understand and use technology confidently, creatively and critically.

As the cyber threat to educational establishments continues to evolve, it is imperative that a collaborative approach is in place to ensure the security of this critical data.

A –Recommendation/s and reason/s

As a result of the above, we need to ensure that digital technology is embedded securely in all areas of curriculum delivery.

Purpose
The overall vision of the strategy is to support digitally enabled schools to ensure learners thrive and realise their long-term potential.

Achieving the vision, which supported by overarching principles and key priority areas sets a clear and ambitious mandate.

The key priority areas are:
- Effective Networks
- Data Protection & Digital Resilience
- Hardware
- Hwb & Cloud First

The strategy also sets out the role of the local authority & schools in delivering this vision.

The strategy is for all school learners, teachers, support staff, governors, parents & members of the whole Anglesey school community & their experiences will be consistent across the sectors.

Delivery of the strategy cannot be achieved by working in isolation. Many of the activities within the strategy are dependent on partnership working to be delivered successfully. We will continue to work together with our schools to ensure the best possible outcomes for our learners.

Monitoring
To ensure the strategy is realised, we will establish robust governance arrangements. The arrangements will ensure clarity, accountability, coordination and the structure to monitor progress effectively.

Progress will be reviewed quarterly which will provide a summary report on the actions, outcomes / impact and highlight successes and issues. An annual progress report and review of the strategy will be completed.

As part of the process in developing the strategy, the Deputy Chief Executive and the Director of Education, Skills & Young People engaged with a member of the Ynys Môn Schools ICT Forum (a representative of the Primary Schools Headteachers) to clarify the current situation, discuss the rationale & the content of the draft strategy. The representative subsequently held a meeting with a subgroup of Primary Headteachers to further engage and seek the views of stakeholders.

Similarly, the Deputy Chief Executive and the Director of Education, Skills & Young People engaged with the Island's Secondary Headteachers and with the

A –Recommendation/s and reason/s

Headteacher of CAYB at their recent strategic meeting. Below is a summary of the responses:

- The need for a specific post to work with schools & to manage the Schools ICT Team.
- Flexibility in provision is identified as essential to allow schools to innovate, experiment and develop with IT.
- Concern is noted that the strategy is dependent solely on Hwb and that there is a need to ensure that other / contingency arrangements are in place.
- Secondary Schools note the importance of the role of technicians in schools.
- The role of the IT Forum was identified as very important to refine the strategy.

The points raised will be considered during the development of the operating model.

B – What other options did you consider and why did you reject them and/or opt for this option?

Not applicable.

C – Why is this a decision for the Executive?

In order to receive approval of the strategy.

Ch – Is this decision consistent with policy approved by the full Council?

Yes.

D – Is this decision within the budget approved by the Council?

The decision will not impact on the budget approved by the Council for 2021/22. It will need be included as part of the normal budget setting process for 2022/23.

Dd – Assessing the potential impact (if relevant):		
1	How does this decision impact on our long term needs as an Island?	This strategy aims to improve the current provision of digital technology within the Island's schools, thereby

Dd – Assessing the potential impact (if relevant):		
		ensuring that digital technology is embedded securely in all areas of curriculum delivery and that learners thrive and realise their long-term potential.
2	Is this a decision which it is envisaged will prevent future costs / dependencies on the Authority? If so, how?	No.
3	Have we been working collaboratively with other organisations to come to this decision? If so, please advise whom.	The Strategy is aligned to the Welsh Government priorities set out within the new Curriculum for Wales.
4	Have Anglesey citizens played a part in drafting this way forward, including those directly affected by the decision? Please explain how.	Engagement with schools has taken place during the development of the strategy.
5	Note any potential impact that this decision would have on the groups protected under the Equality Act 2010.	An Equality Impact Assessment has been completed & confirms no impact.
6	If this is a strategic decision, note any potential impact that the decision would have on those experiencing socio-economic disadvantage.	The strategy is for all school learners, teachers, governors, support staff, parents and members of the whole Anglesey school community. It will ensure that all groups have the required access & experience.
7	Note any potential impact that this decision would have on opportunities for people to use the Welsh language and on treating the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language.	A Welsh Language Impact Assessment has been completed & no impact identified.

E – Who did you consult?		What did they say?
1	Chief Executive / Senior Leadership Team (SLT) (mandatory)	The Strategy has been considered by the Chief Executive and SLT prior to it being presented to the Committee. The comments of SLT members have been incorporated into the Strategy.
2	Finance / Section 151 (mandatory)	The Section 151 Officer is a member of the SLT and any comments made have been considered along with all comments made by SLT members. The Section 151 Officer was responsible for drafting the Finance & Structure appendix.

E – Who did you consult?		What did they say?
3	Legal / Monitoring Officer (mandatory)	The Monitoring Officer is a member of the SLT and any comments made have been considered along with all comments made by SLT members.
4	Human Resources (HR)	The strategy has been considered by the Head of Service and the comments have been incorporated into the strategy.
5	Property	N/A
6	Information Communication Technology (ICT)	This is a joint service strategy of which the ICT service were joint authors of the strategy.
7	Procurement	N/A
8	Scrutiny	
9	Local Members	

F - Appendices:

Appendix 1: The draft Anglesey Digital Schools Strategy:
Appendix 2: Funding the Schools Digital Strategy

Ff - Background papers (please contact the author of the Report for any further information):

DIGITAL SCHOOLS STRATEGY

2022-2024

www.ynysmon.gov.uk

Foreword

**Councillor
Llinos Medi Huws**
Council Leader

Digital has many meanings in today's society and is enabling new approaches to be taken in every part of our daily lives. Nowhere is this more evident than in our schools. The ability to change and adapt quickly and effectively, whilst working in partnership was evident during the COVID 19 response, which must now be harnessed into the future.

Full participation in modern society, the workplace, and educational settings already demands increasingly high levels of digital competence. As this demand continues to evolve, it is imperative that we adapt and continue to modernise to prepare our children for the future.

This strategy aims to improve the current provision of digital technology within the Island's schools to ensure learners thrive and realise their long-term potential.

The strategy outlines the vision, which supported by overarching principles and key priority areas sets a clear and ambitious mandate. We want to ensure that digital technology is embedded securely in all areas of curriculum delivery.

Delivery of the strategy cannot be achieved by working in isolation. Many of the activities within the strategy are dependent on partnership working to be delivered successfully. We will continue to work together with our schools to ensure the best possible outcomes for our learners.

Why do we need a Digital Schools Strategy?

Our overall aim is to create an Anglesey that is healthy and prosperous where families can thrive. This includes ensuring that the people of Anglesey realise their long-term potential.

This is the first Digital Schools Strategy for Anglesey that sets out our vision; underpinned by overarching principles and key priority areas for the provision of ICT Services to Schools.

With the introduction of the Curriculum for Wales, digital competence (alongside literacy and numeracy), will be a mandatory cross-curricular skill and must be embedded in any adopted curriculum.

Digital competence focuses on ensuring that learners have the ability to learn, understand and use technology confidently, creatively and critically.

As the cyber threat to educational establishments continues to evolve, it is imperative that a collaborative approach is in place to ensure the security of this critical data.

Together with the Welsh Government's multi-million pound programme to transform technology in Welsh Schools, this is a golden opportunity to equip our schools with the appropriate & secure technology to enable learners to thrive and realise their long-term potential.
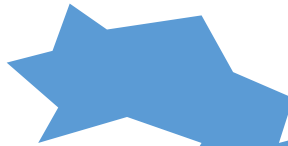
Who is the strategy for?

Canolfan Addysg y Bont

39 Primary Schools

5 Secondary Schools

3712
Secondary Learners

5871
Primary Learners

2 Language Immersion Centres

103 ALN Learners

The strategy is for all school learners, teachers, governors, support staff, parents and members of the whole Anglesey school community.

247
Secondary Teachers

32
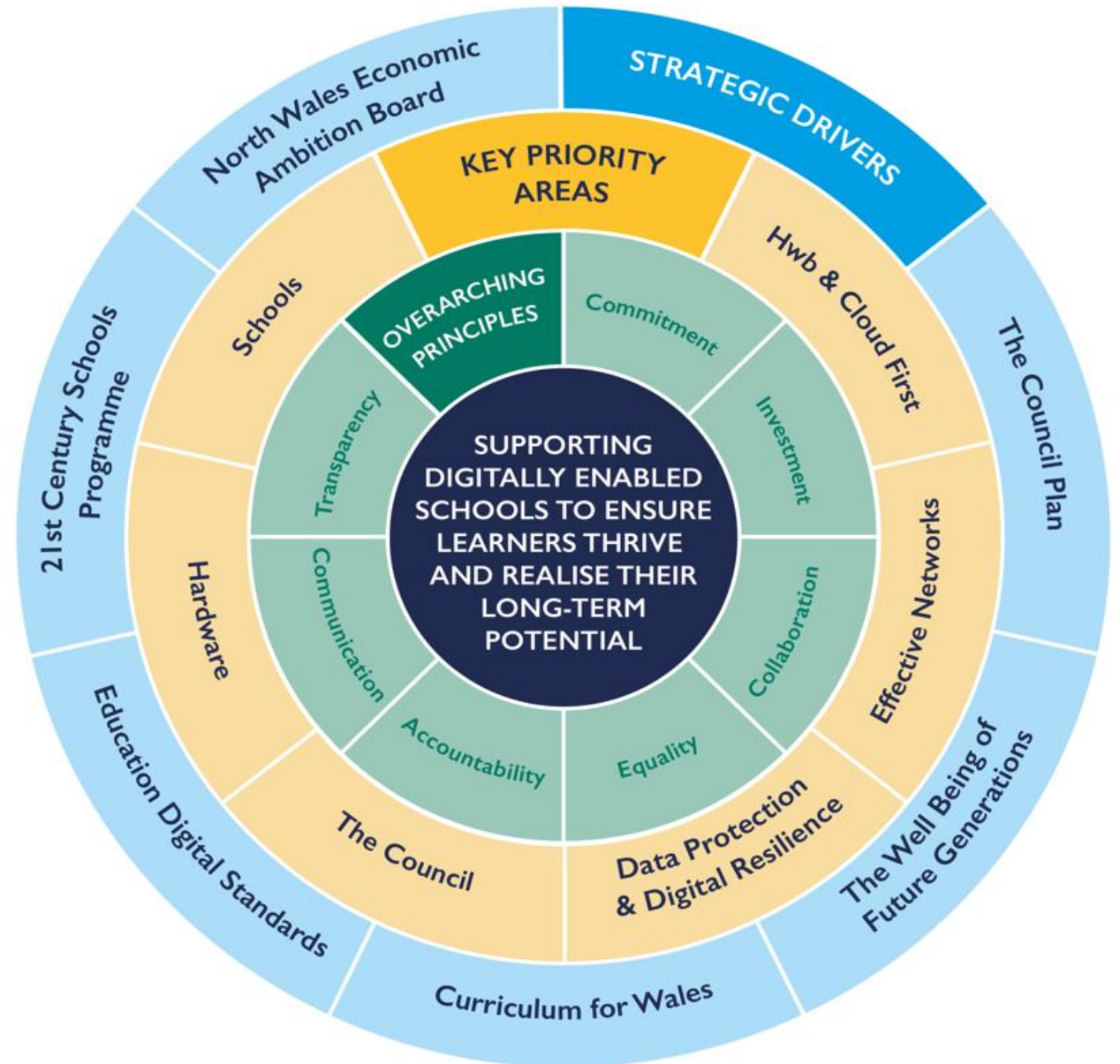Specialist ALN Teachers

384 Primary Teachers

4 Language Immersion Specialist Teachers

Strategic Circle

Achieving the vision, which supported by overarching principles and key priority areas sets a clear and ambitious mandate. We want to ensure that digital technology is embedded securely in all areas of curriculum delivery.

Hwb and Cloud First

Why is this important?

Schools data should be stored in the most secure, resilient, efficient, cost effective and appropriate place.

Hwb is the Welsh Government's digital platform for teaching and learning in Wales. Hwb provides its users with access to a range of centrally funded, bilingual, digital tools and resources and is the strategic channel to support the delivery of the curriculum in Wales.

The benefits of Hwb include:
- supporting improvements in learner attainment
- improvements in the use of digital technology
- financial benefits
- unified, consistent approach
- greater collaboration at all levels
- safeguarding, governance and compliance.

What are we going to do?

We will adopt a Hwb and Cloud First approach thereby capitalising on the technology that is already in place for schools free of charge. We will also implement a standardised series of core packages across our schools with secure access for staff & leaners to systems & data 24/7/365.

Further capitalisation will be developed by broadening the use to School Governors and raising the awareness of Hwb to parents.

Hwb also provides free access to: Google for Education; Microsoft Office 365; a professional networking environment.

How are we going to do this?

✓ Fully migrate to and make full use of HWB.

✓ Hwb logins for all teachers and learners which gives 24/7/365 access.

✓ Hwb cloud architecture is adopted instead of on site servers.

✓ Hwb emails are recognised as the primary professional email provider for and between all schools.

✓ Lead the adoption of Hwb services and software Microsoft / Google/ Adobe and provide quality training for all educators.

✓ Implement a managed device security solution through InTune and create an environment for professional networks to thrive.

Effective Networks

Why is this important?

Schools need to have quick, easy, resilient and dependable access to resources and data.

The demand on networks has grown rapidly and as it is continues to do so, it is vitally important to meet current digital education needs but also safeguard for future needs.

What are we going to do?

We will provide sufficient network infrastructure for all schools. This will ensure that provision is effective, transformational, sustainable and thus underpin teaching and learning in all schools.

How are we going to do this?

We will:

- ✓ Follow an annual plan to rationalise wireless SSIDs, cabinets and refurbish data cables.
- ✓ Use management systems to standardise the experience for all.
- ✓ Take advantage of new technologies.
- ✓ Upgrade the public wireless systems.
- ✓ Use the national Smoothwall service to ensure digital access to the web.
- ✓ There is a commitment to undertake continuous improvements to the network.
- ✓ Develop safe areas to house network infrastructure.
- ✓ Using technology to protect and make our buildings more efficient.
- ✓ Purchasing following suitable procurement processes.

Hardware

Why is this important?

Our schools and classrooms need to be appropriately equipped to enable access to innovative technologies that will support learners on the journey to reach their full potential.

What are we going to do?

The Council will deploy technologies that facilitate an agile approach to learning, enabling teachers and learners to connect, communication and access resources from the most appropriate location in relation to their needs.

How are we going to do this?

The Council will / provide:

- ✓ Refurbish / renew school ICT equipment to Welsh Government digital standards.
- ✓ Increase device parity for all schools.
- ✓ Ensure disadvantage is addressed through combination or re-purposed devices and school device lending.
- ✓ Chromebooks for learners aiming for the highest possible learner to device ratio.
- ✓ A computer in every class and office.
- ✓ For special software, refresh 'Lab' computer rooms where Chromebook cannot be used.

The Council

Why is this important?

Schools will require access to an effective service that will ensure that core devices and the network are supported.

What are we going to do?

The Council will work collaboratively to ensure schools receive the support and guidance they require.

The Council will deploy technologies that facilitate an agile approach to learning, enabling teachers and learners to connect, communication and access resources from the most appropriate location in relation to their needs.

How are we going to do this?

The Council will provide:

- ✓ A service that responds promptly to ensure the availability of equipment.
- ✓ A service that complies with the Digital Standards.
- ✓ A service that delivers resilient and sustainable developments.
- ✓ A service that receives & responds to feedback.
- ✓ A service that ensures the appropriate due diligence is completed & changes are introduced in a controlled & effective manner.

Schools

Why is this important?

To ensure development and continuous improvement in outcomes, schools must evolve and keep pace with technological advancements.

What are we going to do?

Schools will be proactive & develop their own school digital learning strategy.

We will build upon the existing network of collaboration to formally develop the role of the Cluster Digital Learning Facilitators.

There will be open communication along with the willingness of schools to contribute, participate and share best practice.

How are we going to do this?

✓ Schools will assist the support service to ensure that the computer-equipped network & data is secure.
✓ Schools working sectorally following an effective process of research, piloting, adoption before ordering IT equipment.
✓ Schools contributing to the digital in education agenda at relevant meetings & forums.
✓ Cluster Digital Learning Facilitators will:
  • Strengthen strategic leadership in digital learning across the region through 360digi.cymru
  • Ensure that Digital Competence is incorporated as one of the three cross-curricular skills
  • To collaborate at a cluster level to help all schools to develop, ensuring that professional learning opportunities are accessible to all
  • Establish a new digital learning self-evaluation tool as a basis for school improvement planning
  • Provide support and guidance on how practitioners can broaden learning via synchronous and asynchronous learning
✓ Schools that show interest and take responsibility for the quality and effectiveness of IT.
✓ Schools continuously revisit to respond to the changes in technology and the availability of new and exciting solutions.
✓ Schools to share best practice and provide feedback via the IT Forum.
✓ Schools to make effective use of the Digital Champion Network.

Data Protection & Digital Resilience

Why is this important?

To keep learners, teachers and staff safe online. To ensure schools' data, systems and services are secure. To manage and protect the integrity of devices and appliances.

Schools are required under the *UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR*) and the *Data Protection Act 2018,* to have **appropriate technical and security measures.**

Schools need to ensure that they have adopted and fully complying with data protection policies, in particular, with the *Schools Data Protection Policy* and *Schools Information Security Policy.*

What are we going to do?

We are further developing and enhancing our data protection accordingly.

The Council will provide support and guidance to schools (as the Data Controller) with meeting the expectations placed upon them by data protection legislation. This includes data protection guidance from the Schools Data Protection Officer.

All policies, templates and guidance, including cyber security guidance, can be found on the Data Protection Page on the Learning Service Microsite.

How are we going to do this?

We will act responsibly, plan ahead & be realistic regarding all aspects of schools' ICT security.

We will decommission on premises storage & migrating school data to Hwb SharePoint servers as the data platform solution

We will ensure our countywide schools' network is protected via the relevant firewalling, access controls, permissions and other suitable cyber protection.

We will migrate to a more resilient cloud based web content filtering solution to protect all schools' web traffic and users.

We will upgrade our device protection & encryption where necessary to ensure the security and integrity of schools' hardware & devices.

We will provide secure authentication & access to core central services for the appropriate teachers & staff as and when necessary.

User Experience

Learner

- Experience of using different technologies.
- Access to a device to allow quick access to the cloud via the school's wifi network
- The ability to study and learn from home
- A Hwb email & account that will allow access to a wide range of learning resources
- Remote access to learning resources
- Enhanced parental engagement

Teacher

- The use of regularly refreshed & suitable devices in the classroom.
- Hwb email & account that will allow access to a wide range of learning resources
- Access to the Anglesey Schools Teachers & TA's Support Hub
- Access to school systems at the school & home
- Access to professional learning

Teaching Assistant

- The ability to use the school's devices to access learning resources & professional learning
- Hwb email & account that will allow access to a wide range of learning resources
- Access to the Anglesey Schools Teachers & TA's Support Hub

School Administrator

- A device to allow quick access to learners' information management systems
- On-line payment systems that are consistent and effective
- Filing and storage systems on the cloud
- School finance management systems

Governor

- Hwb account that will allow access to training and key documentation
- Access to the Anglesey Schools Governors Support Hub

The experiences of learners, teachers, assistants and the whole school community will be consistent across the sectors.

Governance: Monitoring & Evaluation

To ensure the strategy is realised, we will establish robust governance arrangements.

The arrangements will ensure clarity, accountability, coordination and the structure to monitor progress effectively.

Progress will be reviewed quarterly which will provide a summary report on the actions, outcomes / impact and highlight successes and issues.

An annual progress report and review of the strategy will be completed.

APPENDIX B: FUNDING THE DIGITAL SCHOOLS STRATEGY

CURRENT FUNDING

The current support provided by Cynnal is funded from the School's Delegated budget with the allocation to each school determined by the funding formula. The charge made to each school then matches the funding allocated to each school. In addition an element of the service provided by Cynnal is funded from a central Education budget. The total funding by sector for 2021/22 is as follows:

Table 1

Current Funding

Sector	£
Primary	62,873
Secondary	131,939
Special	1,048
Central Education	55,904
Total	**251,764**

As part of the 2021/22 revenue budget, the Executive supported the proposal to fund additional support and provided £100,000 to fund additional staffing within the Council's IT Service.

This brings the total funding available to £351,764.

PROPOSED STAFFING STRUCTURE

As stated above additional staff have already been appointed within the IT Service to provide additional support. The costs are shown below:

Table 2

Current Staffing

Staff Grade	No.Staff in Post	Cost at 20/21 pay rates £	Additional Pay Award for 21/22 (Assume 1.75%) £	Total Estimated Cost for 21/22 £
6	1	42,604	746	43,350
5	1	36,964	647	37,611
4	1	31,370	579	31,949
TOTAL	**3**	**110,938**	**1,972**	**112,910**

The additional pay award will be funded from the inflationary uplift in the 2022/23 budget which is undertaken for all staffing budgets.

In order to provide the service set out in the strategy, the following additional posts are required.

Table 3

Additional Staffing Requirement

Staff Grade	No.Staff in Post	Cost at 20/21 pay rates £	Additional Pay Award for 21/22 (Assume 1.75%) £	Total Estimated Cost for 21/22 £
6	4	170,416	2,982	173,398
5	4	147,856	2,588	150,444
4	1	31,370	579	31,949
3	1	26,623	466	27,089
TOTAL	**10**	**376,265**	**6,615**	**382,880**

THE ADDITIONAL FUNDING REQUIREMENT

The additional funding requirement required in order to implement the strategy is as follows:-

Table 4

Additional Funding Requirement

	£	£
Staff Costs		
Current Staffing Structure as per Table 2	112,910	
Additional Staffing Requirement as per Table 3	382,880	
Total Staffing Structure Cost		**495,790**
Funded By		
Current Budgets as per Table 1	251,764	
Additional Funding provided in 2021/22 Budget	100,000	
2021/22 Pay Award to be funded as part of normal budget process as per Table 2 & 3	8,587	
Total Funding Currently Available		**360,351**
Additional Funding Requirement		**135,439**