Isle of Anglesey County Council
Scrutiny Report

Committee:	Partnership and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee
Date:	10 December 2025
Subject:	Digital Education Strategic Plan 2026-2031
Scrutiny Chair:	Councillor Dylan Rees

1.   Who will be the portfolio holder presenting / leading the report?

Portfolio Holder	Role
Councillor Dafydd Roberts	Portfolio holder for Education and the Welsh Language
Service Officer (Supporting)	**Role**
Aaron Evans	Director of Education, Skills and Young People
Rhys Williams	Education Strategic Leader (Primary)

2.   Why the Scrutiny Committee is being asked to consider the matter

The Digital Education Strategic Plan contributes to the development of a modern education system that is suitable for today and future generations. The current plan expired in 2024; therefore, it is necessary to establish a new plan for the next period. The committee is requested to consider the contents of the 2026-2031 strategic plan.

3.   Role of the Scrutiny Committee and recommendations

☒For assurance
☒For recommendation to the Executive
☒For information

Recommendation(s):
The committee is requested to accept the contents of the Digital Education Strategic Plan for the period 2026-2031 ahead of its presentation to the Executive.

4.   How does the recommendation(s) contribute to the objectives of the Council's Plan?

The Council Plan notes the following vision:

"To create an Anglesey that is healthy and prosperous where people can thrive."

Mae'r ddogfen hon ar gael yn Gymraeg
This document is available in Welsh

Education's objective is: "*Ensuring an effective provision for today and for future generations.*"

The Digital Education Strategic Plan plays a vital role in the vision and reflects our commitment to constructing a modern education system which is suitable for today and for future generations, where each school has the technology, the skills and the support required to give learners the best possible start.

This strategic plan also corresponds to the Council's Digital Strategic Plan (see background paper), creating a coherent approach that prioritises access, inclusion, and user needs. This supports education and wider digital services to realise the aim of creating a healthy and prosperous Anglesey where people can thrive.

5. Key scrutiny themes

Key themes the Scrutiny Committee should concentrate on:

There are five key priority areas to the plan that the committee should concentrate on, i.e.:

1. Sustainability
2. Connectivity
3. Collaboration
4. Professional Learning
5. Data Protection and Digital Resilience

Within the above priority areas, the committee should give particular consideration to the following aspects:

1. Identifying and addressing the key risks and challenges schools face in terms of cyber security, data protection and resilience.
2. Assessing the Learning Service's efficiency in supporting schools to develop their own digital strategies through collaboration and partnership.
3. Upcoming training programme plans for staff and teachers on digital security to protect children.

6. Key points / summary

There are five key priority areas to the Digital Education Strategic Plan 2026-31, i.e.:

1. Sustainability

- Long-term Viability: Ensure that digital investments are financially sustainable to avoid future disruption.

- Resource Allocation and Equality: Use finances efficiently to support current and upcoming digital initiatives.

2. Connectivity

- Network Infrastructure: Monitor and improve school connectivity, including upgrading bandwidth where required.
- Digital Security: Review and develop systems to protect learners (e.g., smoothwall, Senso).
- Support for Schools: Provide equipment and support for schools to operate digital security solutions.

3. Collaboration

- Develop School Strategies: Support schools to create their own digital strategies.
- Digital Coordinator Networks: Strengthen the role of digital coordinators in schools.
- Leadership and Sharing Good Practice: Promote local leadership and share good practice through clusters and networks.

4. Professional Learning

- Training Programme: Collaborate to create professional learning programmes for staff.
- Technology Integration: Training on the use of digital equipment in the curriculum.
- Feedback and Evaluation: Arrange feedback systems with clusters and schools.
- Software and Hardware Reconciliation: Work with the Council's IT team to coordinate resources.

5. Data Protection and Resilience

- ICT Security: Forward plan for cyber security and access management.
- Data Migration to Hwb SharePoint: Move data from on-site storage to a national platform.
- Security Upgrade: Encrypt devices, use cloud filtering solutions and provide secure access to staff.

7.   Impact assessments

7.1. Potential impacts on groups protected under the Equality Act 2010

This strategic plan strives to ensure that every pupil, whatever their background or location, has equal access to digital resources. By fostering digital skills among pupils and staff, the strategic plan supports the wider vision to create an Anglesey that is healthy and prosperous where people can thrive.

7.2. Potential impacts on those experiencing socio-economic disadvantage (strategic decisions)

The plan ensures that modern digital devices and appropriate connectivity are available to schools, reducing the digital gap between learners. It supports every learner (including those who are disadvantaged) to access online educational resources, giving everyone the same opportunity to succeed in school, regardless of their economic background.

7.3. Potential effects on opportunities to use Welsh and not treat the language less favourably than English

This strategic plan strives to ensure that each pupil has equal access to digital resources through Welsh and English.

7.4. Potential impact on the Council's Net Zero Carbon target

N/A

8. Financial implications

Although the Council has earmarked a sum to fund the plan in the future, it is unlikely that the funds earmarked up to now will be sufficient. Therefore, it will be necessary to add to the fund, but this will be challenging given the difficult financial situation the Council is currently facing.

9. Appendices

Digital Education Strategic Plan 2026-2031

10. Report author and background papers

Digital Schools Strategic Plan 2022-2024 Digital Schools Strategic Plan 2022-2024 End-point Report *Authors – Aaron Evans (Director of Education) and Mathew Henshaw (Chief Digital Officer)* Digital Strategic Plan 2024-2029