

Isle of Anglesey County Council

Report to:	The Executive
Date:	16 December 2025
Subject:	Digital Education Strategic Plan (2026-2031)
Portfolio holder(s):	Dafydd Roberts
Head of service / director:	Aaron Evans – Director of Education
Report author:	Rhys Williams – Strategic Leader (Primary)
Local members:	All Elected Members

A – Recommendation(s) and reasons

R1 Adopt the new Digital Education Strategic Plan (2026-2031).

Reasons

The Digital Education Strategic Plan contributes to the construction of a modern education system that responds to education's objective within the Council Plan, i.e., '*Ensuring an effective provision for today and for future generations*'. It corresponds to the [Council's Digital Strategic Plan](#) and supports equal access, digital inclusion and community development.

There are five key areas to the plan, which are:

- **Sustainability:** Sustainability ensures that the plan is viable over time, with strong funds and IT planning to maintain services of high standard and to support digital innovation.
- **Connectivity:** Fast and reliable connectivity is key to ensuring uninterrupted access to digital resources, supporting online exams and creating a modern learning environment that complies with national standards.
- **Collaboration:** Strategic cooperation enables schools to evolve in light of technological developments, standardising technology and applications and ensuring appropriate professional support through a bespoke collaboration model.
- **Professional Learning:** Professional learning is vital to ensure that teachers have strong digital skills, enabling them to adapt to new technologies, use data to improve teaching, and share good practice. This contributes to creating an innovative learning environment that satisfies students' needs.
- **Data Protection and Digital Resilience:** Data protection is vital to ensure the online safety of learners, teachers and staff, to protect school systems and devices, and to comply with legal requirements. This creates a secure digital environment that maintains the service's trust and integrity.

The Digital Education Strategic Plan promotes the Council's values by ensuring that digital developments are sustainable, support equality and diversity, strengthen safeguarding, enable effective accountability and communication, and drive forward modernisation to provide education services that are fair, secure and suitable for the future.

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

N/A

C – Why is this a decision for the Executive?

To approve the strategic plan.

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

The plan is consistent with the contents of the [Council Plan](#) and the Council's [Digital Strategic Plan](#) and supports their objectives. The Strategic Plan shares a vision for digital inclusion, skills development, robust infrastructure, security, innovation, and collaboration. The connection ensures that education is part of the wider digital transformation occurring on a local authority and national level.

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

This plan strives to use funds efficiently and promote financial sustainability. 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.

Dd – Assessment of potential impacts (if relevant)

1. How does this decision affect our long-term needs as an island?

The Digital Education Strategic Plan 2026-2031 sets a strong foundation for long-term digital development by ensuring a reliable infrastructure, developing teacher and learner digital skills, and promoting inclusion. The emphasis on financial sustainability enables effective action over time, while preparing learners for jobs that are increasingly reliant on technology.

2. Is this a decision that is anticipated to prevent future costs/dependencies on the Council? If so, how?

By investing in a digital infrastructure we avoid further costs in the future.

3. Have we collaborated with other organisations to come to this decision? If so, with whom?

The strategic plan is aligned with Welsh Government priorities as noted in the Curriculum for Wales.

4. Have the citizens of Anglesey played a part in drafting this way forward, including those directly affected by the decision? Explain how.

We engage with schools in the development of the strategic plan.

5. Note any potential impact this decision would have on the protected groups 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 aim of creating a prosperous and healthy Anglesey where families can thrive.

6. If this is a strategic decision, note any potential impacts the decision would have on those experiencing socio-economic disadvantage.

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. Please note any potential effects that this decision would have on opportunities for people to use Welsh and not treat the language less favourably than English.

We ensure equal access through Welsh and English.

E – Who did you consult with and what were their comments?

1. Chief Executive / Leadership Team (mandatory)	The strategic plan was considered by the Chief Executive and the Leadership Team (LT) before it was presented to the Executive. The LT's comments have been incorporated into the strategic plan.
2. Finance / 151 Officer	The Section 151 Officer is a member of the LT and any of their comments have been taken into account alongside LT members' comments.
3. Legal / Monitoring Officer (mandatory)	The Monitoring Officer is a member of the LT and any of their comments have been taken into account alongside LT members' comments.
4. HR	
5. Property	
6. IT	The strategic plan was written in conjunction with the ICT Service.
7. Procurement	
8. Scrutiny	
9. Local members	

F – Appendices

Digital Education Strategic Plan 2026-2031

Ff – Background papers (contact the report author for more information)

[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](#)



Digital Education Strategic Plan 2026–2031

Mae'r ddogfen hon hefyd ar gael yn y Saesneg /

This document is also available in English.



CYNGOR SIR
YNYS MÔN
ISLE OF ANGLESEY
COUNTY COUNCIL

Foreword

Digital technology is vital in education as it offers richer learning resources, promotes cooperation and communication, and provides flexibility and convenience. It also helps pupils and students develop essential 21st century skills such as digital literacy and problem solving.

This plan represents our commitment to nurturing a dynamic and inclusive digital learning environment for all learners and staff in Anglesey schools.

By focusing on sustainability, infrastructure development and strong device management, our aim is to provide our schools with the necessary equipment and resources to thrive in an increasingly digital world. Collaboration with schools will be vital in providing the training and support required to ensure the successful integration of digital technologies in our educational practices.

The “Team Môn” mindset continues to be at the core of everything we do. By continuing to collaborate, we are in a good position to be able to succeed in the next chapter of our digital journey.



Councillor Robin Williams
Portfolio Holder for
Finance, Council Business
and Customer Experience



Councillor Dafydd Roberts
Education Portfolio Holder



Mathew Henshaw
Chief Digital Officer



Aaron C Evans
Director of Education, Skills
and Young People

Why is a Digital Education Strategic Plan required?

Our vision is to create an Anglesey that is healthy and prosperous where people can thrive.

The Digital Education Strategic Plan plays an essential part in the vision and reflects our commitment to building a modern education system that is suitable for today and future generations – where every school has the technology, skills and support required to give learners the best possible start.

This strategic plan corresponds to the [Council's Digital Strategic Plan](#), which focuses on ensuring that inhabitants and visitors have access to high quality services through digital and traditional channels.

By integrating the Digital Education Strategic Plan with the Council's wider plan, the Council aims to support educational needs whilst also addressing our citizens' wider digital requirements.

With continuous support from Welsh Government, this strategic plan builds on the current momentum to ensure that Anglesey schools are ready for future opportunities and challenges.

Who is the Digital Education Strategic Plan for?

- 1. Pupils:** Ensure there is access to modern digital equipment and mediums to improve learning experience.
- 2. Education Workers:** Provide the digital infrastructure and support to integrate technology effectively into teaching approaches.
- 3. Schools:** Facilitate permanent digital transformation to create a more efficient and participatory learning environment.
- 4. Parents and Guardians:** Keep informed and part of their children's education through digital methods.

This strategic plan also corresponds to the [Council's Digital Strategic Plan](#)'s wider aims, which aim to ensure that the inhabitants and visitors of Anglesey can gain access to services of high quality through a variety of digital and traditional channels.

Accurate data up to 12/3/2025 and
PLASC 2025 data

265

Secondary
Teachers



755

ALN
Learners



3567

Secondary
Learners



Secondary
Schools

5

4561 Chromebooks
1401 Windows
211 iOS



37

Primary
Schools

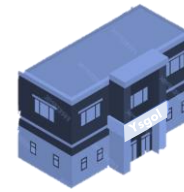
5060 Chromebooks
500 Windows
1157 iOS



1

Special
School

71 Chromebooks
62 Windows
43 iOS



3

Language
Centres



5

Specialist
Language
Immersion
Teachers

4092

Primary
Learners



245

Primary Teachers



Council Plan 2023–2028 Strategic Objectives

The Council Plan’s vision is to:

‘Create an Anglesey that is
healthy and prosperous
where people can thrive.’

The Council Plan is the main document which is the focus of the decisions made on each level; providing a framework for planning and driving priorities forward; shaping annual expenditure; monitoring performance and progress.

At the plan’s core is our ambition to work with inhabitants, communities and partners on Anglesey to ensure the best possible services, improve the quality of life for everyone and create opportunities for future generations.

Its six main objectives reflect the main areas the Council should focus on.



Welsh Language

Increasing opportunities to learn
and use the language.



Social Care and Wellbeing

Providing the right support at the
right time.



Education

Ensuring an effective provision for
today and for future generations.



Housing

Ensuring that everyone has the
right to call somewhere home.



Economy

Promoting opportunities to develop
the island’s economy.



Climate Change

Responding to the crisis, tackling
change and working towards
becoming a net zero organisation by
2030.



[Council Plan 2023 to 2028](#)

Council Plan 2023–2028–Values

The organisation's core values are the foundation of the Council Plan 2023–28, and they are used to develop and lead vision, strategic plans and services.



Respect

We are respectful and considerate towards others whatever our differences.



Collaboration

We work as a team with our communities and partners to achieve the best outcomes for the people of Anglesey.



Honesty

We are committed to high standards of conduct and integrity.



Promoting the Council and the Island

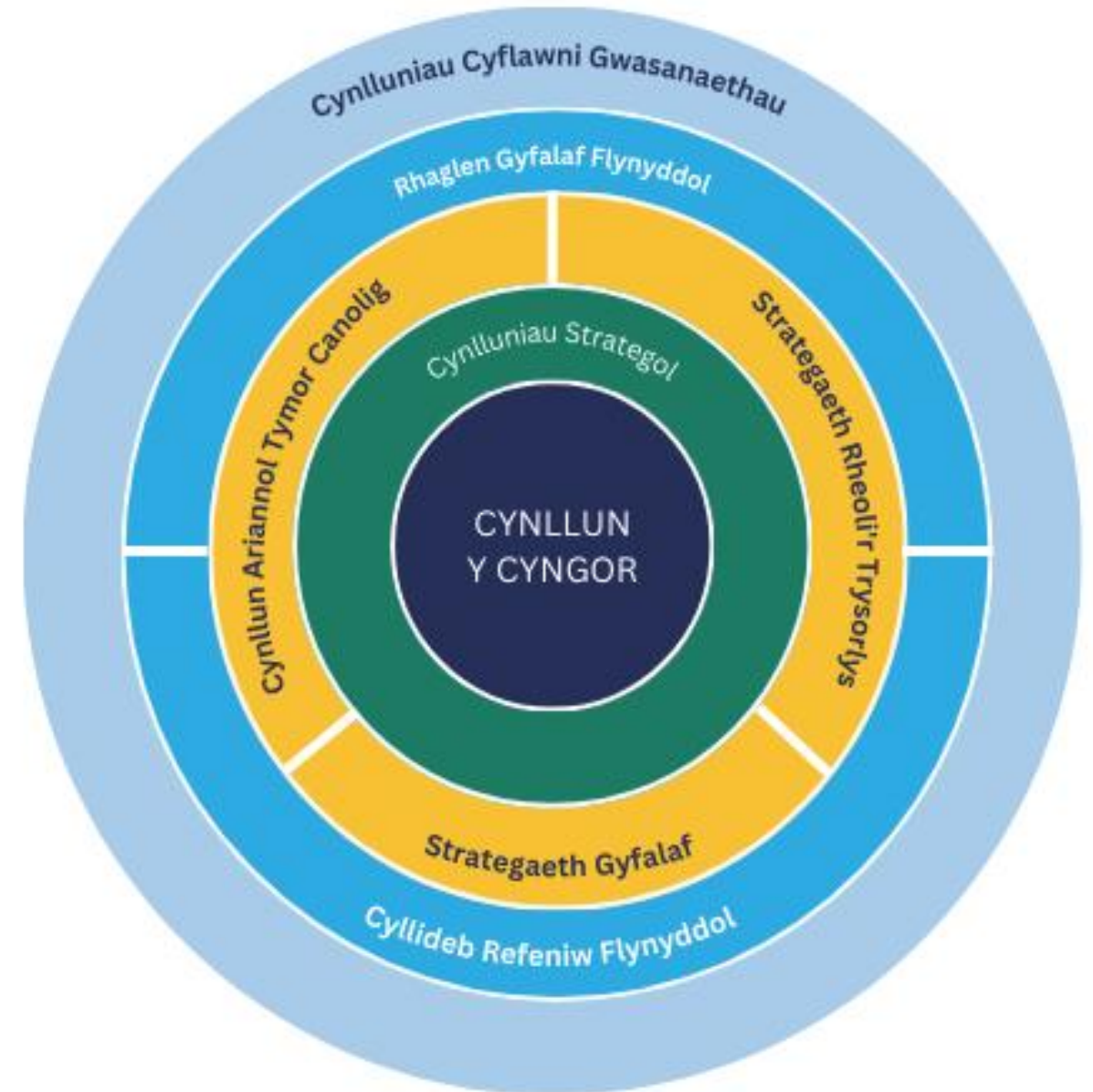
We create a sense of pride in working for the Council and present a positive image of the Council and the island.



Strategic cycle

The strategic cycle notes the plans in place to ensure we can fulfil our priorities and objectives.

This plan is a key strategic plan that corresponds to the Council Plan and contributes towards achieving the strategic objectives and vision.



Key priority areas

- Sustainability
- Connectivity
- Collaboration
- Professional learning
- Data protection and digital resilience

Sustainability

Why is this important?

By concentrating on financial sustainability, the Digital Education Strategic Plan can achieve its aims of improving education, supporting inclusion and preparing students for the future reliably and consistently.

A Service Level Agreement (SLA) sets out the sustainability framework for schools to ensure there is a strong financial basis to maintain a service of the highest possible standard.

To ensure that IT capacity is available to support digital innovation in our schools and to prepare our learners for a digital future.

What will we do?

- Ensure that the strategic plan is financially sustainable.
- Ensure that funds are used efficiently to support current and future digital initiatives.
- Identify any additional grants that may be available to support this work and take advantage of them.
- Use the Council's procurement processes effectively to ensure the best value for money and to ensure compliance.

How will we do this?

- Develop a detailed budget plan that outlines all expected costs and use the funds strategically. This includes initial investments in a digital infrastructure, ongoing maintenance, and improvements in the future.
- Identify and ensure various funding sources, such as government grants, private sector partnerships and community fundraising initiatives.
- Continue to develop effective collaboration, internally in the Council and with external stakeholders to make the most effective and efficient use of resources.
- Purchase by following the appropriate procurement processes.

Connectivity

Why is this important?

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

The demand on networks has increased quickly and continues to do so, therefore, it is essential to meet the current digital education needs but also to protect future needs.

To support schools in preparing for online exams with strong management solutions that correspond to national digital expectations and standards.

What will we do?

- Provide and monitor a network infrastructure which is adequate for all schools.
- Invest into the upgrade of school bandwidth where appropriate.
- Review processes already in place to protect our learners, e.g., smoothwall and ensure they are developed continuously in accordance with national guidelines.
- Support schools with equipment to protect learners and support schools to operate a solution in accordance with the EdTech programme, e.g., Senso as a classroom management tool.

How will we do this?

- Use management systems to standardise the experience for everyone.
- Take advantage of new technologies.
- Use the national security service/platform to ensure digital access to the internet.
- Commit to delivering continuous improvements to the network.
- Develop secure areas to store network infrastructure.
- Review school bandwidth use regularly and as part of the annual SLA review.
- Support schools with the use of classroom management equipment in accordance with the EdTech programme.

Collaboration

Why is this important?

By concentrating on strategic collaboration within the Council and with external stakeholders, the Council will ensure development and improvements for schools to evolve and keep up with the most recent technological developments.

With schools collaborating more closely through the school-to-school model, the opportunities to standardise technology, applications, and the introduction of digital technology in schools ensure that appropriate learning and professional support are available.

There are expertise within the Council in addition to practitioners within our schools. In moving forward, it is essential that we learn from experience and collaborate to make the most effective use of limited resources.

What will we do?

- Facilitate and support schools to proactively develop their own digital learning and sustainability strategy.
- Build on the current collaboration network to develop the digital coordinator role within each school formally.
- Develop strategic communication and collaboration within catchments based on the Schools as Learning Establishments framework.
- Develop leaders within our schools who can lead locally.

How will we do this?

- Develop a joint understanding of the roles and responsibilities within schools and the Council.
- Facilitate collaboration through termly ICT forums.
- Promote Digital Learning Facilitator cluster work by supporting collaboration between schools.
- Regular review to respond to new technology and solutions.
- Schools share best practice and feedback through the IT Forum.
- Closer collaboration within the Council by reviewing current arrangements and establishing a Digital Education Steering Group with clear and purposeful governance.

Professional Learning

Why is this important?

School staff with strong digital skills can adapt quickly to new technologies and incorporate them in their teaching approaches, which enables them to collaborate more effectively with others and to share good practice and innovative teaching approaches.

The continuous development of digital skills also contributes to the professional growth of school staff, making them more confident and competent in their roles, leading to job satisfaction. Teachers can also gather and analyse student performance data, which helps identify learning gaps and tailor the teaching to satisfy the individual needs of students.

What will we do?

- Work with stakeholders and schools to prepare fit for purpose professional learning programmes.
- Construct a procedure for joint feedback and evaluation with schools and clusters.
- Ensure that the support on the national EdTech programme is utilised.
- Reconcile software and hardware so we can arrange professional learning for them.

How will we do this?

- Operate comprehensive training programmes that focus on the development of digital applications.
- Provide ongoing support through digital learning guidance, access to online resources and bespoke IT support teams.
- Establish practice communities where school staff can share experiences, best practice, and innovative teaching approaches.
- Offer incentives such as accreditations, professional learning credits and recognition programmes to motivate school staff to improve their digital skills.
- Encourage the use of digital equipment across a variety of subjects by aligning them with the curriculum's aims and learning objectives.
- Assess the effectiveness of digital skill training programmes regularly through feedback from teachers and evaluations of student outcomes.

Data protection and digital resilience

Why is this important?

To ensure that learners, teachers and staff are safe online.

To ensure that school data, systems and services are secure.

To manage and protect the integrity of devices and equipment.

Under the UK General Data Protection Regulation and the Data Protection Act 2018, schools must have the appropriate technical and security measures in place.

Schools must ensure they have adopted and that they comply correctly with the data protection policies, in particular the Schools Data Protection Policy and the Schools Information Security Policy.

What will we do?

- Strengthen ICT security through proactive planning.
- Strengthen and ensure there are robust processes in place to manage data protection access and governance.
- Protect school networks with a robust infrastructure.
- Ensure that content filtering arrangements are fit for purpose.
- Encrypt devices and ensure they satisfy security standards.
- Ensure secure access to core services
- Support digital transformation through initiatives.
- Manage IT risks and strengthen post-incident recovery.

How will we do this?

- Forward plan each change with appropriate security measures.
- Move school data to Hwb SharePoint.
- Decommission local storage and migrate data securely to the cloud.
- Install firewalls and access controls on networks.
- Implement a content filtering system based on the cloud.
- Upgrade and encrypt devices where required.
- Use strong authentication for staff access.
- Operate digital initiatives in partnership with Digi 360 Cymru.
- Establish ICT recovery and threat management processes.

Governance: Monitoring and evaluation

We will establish robust arrangements to ensure that the strategic plan is delivered. These arrangements will provide clarity, accountability, cohesion, and structure to effectively monitor progress.

The Digital Education Strategic Plan Steering Group will be responsible for developing, implementing and monitoring the strategic plan. The Steering Group will report to the Leadership Team – Capital and Digital. Any specific projects will follow the Digital Business Requirements Framework. Schools will have the opportunity to provide feedback annually through the ICT Forum.

Progress will include information about actions, outcomes, and impact, highlighting successes and issues.

An annual progress report and a review of the strategic plan will be completed.