

Impact Assessment

Utilities Efficiency in Schools



06/01/2023

Reference: 9108-5818-8510-4723

Impact Assessments (IA) are a process of assessing how our proposals and decisions might impact upon different types of people and communities and developing proposals in line with relevant legislation.

This is a legal requirement, and ensures the Council considers key legislation, including Equalities, Welsh language, Future Generations, Socio-economic Duty and Risk when developing proposals.

It will also help the Council make the best possible decisions for the people of Powys.

1. Proposal Information

Author name	Sarah Quibell, Professional Lead for Education Support Services
Head of service	Georgina Bevan, Head of Education
Portfolio holder	Pete Roberts, portfolio holder for Cabinet Member for a Learning Powys
Proposal title	Utilities Efficiency in Schools
Description of proposal	Ensure efficient use of utilities in schools: <ul style="list-style-type: none">* Turn off lighting when it is not being used* Cessation of photocopying activity* Implement a 2 degree Celsius reduction in heating temperature* Turn off laptops and other electrical devices when not being used

2. Savings and Consultation requirements

Profile of savings delivery

2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027+	Total savings
£NaN	£NaN	£NaN	£NaN	£NaN	£NaN	£936,810

Further information

Ensure efficient use of utilities in schools:

- * Turn off lighting when it is not being used: 2023-24 = £194,812
- * Cessation of photocopying activity: 2023-24 = £242,982
- * Implement a 2 degree Celsius reduction in heating temperature: 2023-24 = £427,013
- * Turn off laptops and other electrical devices when not being used: 2023-24 = £38,962

Consultation requirements

Consultation required?	No
Justification	The proposals are to effectively use resources and does not impact on staff.

3. Impact on other service areas, geographical areas and data protection

3a. Impact on other service areas

- Schools (Primary Secondary and Special)

3b. Impact on geographical locations

The entire county

3c. Data protection impact assessment

Will the proposal involve processing the personal details of individuals?	No
Is Powys County Council the data controller?	No
Further information	No personal data is processed as a result of this proposal

4. Impact on Vision 2025

4a. The economy

Impact	None
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4b. Health and care

Impact	None
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4c. Learning and skills

Impact	<p>The proposal ensures the efficient use of utilities in schools:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Turn off lighting when it is not being used: turning off lighting reduces costs and electricity usage and supports CO2 and sustainability targets. * Cessation of photocopying activity: cessation of photocopying activity reduces costs and electricity usage and supports CO2 and sustainability targets. * Implement a 2 degree Celsius reduction in heating temperature: limited impact, classrooms will be 2 degrees Celsius cooler but still within Health and Safety requirements. In addition, the change reduces electricity costs and supports CO2 and sustainability targets. * Turn off laptops and other electrical devices when not being used; reduction in the use of electricity reduces costs and supports CO2 and sustainability. There is also a reduction in fire risk.
Impact rating	Very good
Mitigation	Not specified

4d. Residents and communities

Impact	None
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4e. Evidence

Evidence is the current energy costs, risk assessments regarding current practice in schools and reports such as <https://www.theguardian.com/resource/switch-off-and-save>

5. Impact on well-being goals including Welsh language and equalities

5a. A prosperous Wales

Impact	None
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5b. A resilient Wales

Impact	<p>The proposal ensures the efficient use of utilities in schools:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Turn off lighting when it is not being used: turning off lighting reduces costs and electricity usage and supports CO2 and sustainability targets. * Cessation of photocopying activity: cessation of photocopying activity reduces costs and electricity usage and supports CO2 and sustainability targets. * Implement a 2 degree Celsius reduction in heating temperature: limited impact, classrooms will be 2 degrees Celsius cooler but still within Health and Safety requirements. In addition, the change reduces electricity costs and supports CO2 and sustainability targets. * Turn off laptops and other electrical devices when not being used; reduction in the use of electricity reduces costs and supports CO2 and sustainability. There is also a reduction in fire risk.
Impact rating	Very good
Mitigation	Not specified

5c. A healthier Wales

Impact	None
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5d. A Wales of cohesive communities

Impact	None
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5e. A globally responsible Wales

Impact	<p>The proposal ensures the efficient use of utilities in schools:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Turn off lighting when it is not being used: turning off lighting reduces costs and electricity usage and supports CO2 and sustainability targets. * Cessation of photocopying activity: cessation of photocopying activity reduces costs and electricity usage and supports CO2 and sustainability targets. * Implement a 2 degree Celsius reduction in heating temperature: limited impact, classrooms will be 2 degrees Celsius cooler but still within Health and Safety requirements. In addition, the change reduces electricity costs and supports CO2 and sustainability targets. * Turn off laptops and other electrical devices when not being used; reduction in the use of electricity reduces costs and supports CO2 and sustainability. There is also a reduction in fire risk.
Impact rating	Very good
Mitigation	Not specified

5f. A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language

Using Welsh

Impact	None
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Promoting Welsh

Impact	None
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Sports, Art & Recreation

Impact	None
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5g. A more equal Wales

Age

Impact	None
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Disability

Impact	None
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Gender Reassignment

Impact	None
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Marriage or Civil Partnership

Impact	None
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Race

Impact	None
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Religion or Belief

Impact	None
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Sex

Impact	None
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Sexual Orientation

Impact	None
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Pregnancy and Maternity

Impact	None
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Socio-economic Duty

Impact	None
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5h. Evidence

Evidence is the current energy costs, risk assessments regarding current practice in schools and reports such as <https://www.theguardian.com/resource/switch-off-and-save>

6. Impact on key guiding principles & workforce

6a. Sustainable development principles

Long-term

Impact	None
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Collaboration

Impact	None
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Involvement (including Communication and Engagement)

Impact	None
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Prevention

Impact	None
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Integration

Impact	None
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6b. Impact on the workforce

Impact	None
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6c. Impact on payroll

Impact	None
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6d. Welsh language impact on staff

Impact	None
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6e. Impact on apprenticeships

Impact	None
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6f. Evidence

Based on the research that has been undertaken to develop these proposals, there has been no impact identified in these areas. References to the source material to reach these conclusions are given in the additional evidence section at the end of this impact assessment.

7. Likelihood and risks

Risk 1

Description	Individual schools do not adopt the efficiency measures and therefore do not reduce costs.				
Likelihood score	3	Impact score	2	Risk rating	6.0
Mitigation	Schools Service and Finance work with schools to promote the cost and environmental benefits of the utilities efficiency measures.				
Residual likelihood score	2	Residual impact score	2	Residual risk rating	4.0

8. Overall summary and judgement

Outline assessment

Overall, our assessment is that these measures will provide overall benefits. Individual schools will gain a reduction in energy costs and therefore, not need to mitigate by cuts elsewhere in their budget, whilst the Council's broader agenda regarding the green economy and progress towards net zero carbon will be enhanced by the reduced energy usage in schools. This is based upon evidence of delivery of similar programmes in schools elsewhere within the UK and individual schools will be supported towards achieving this via Finance Surgeries.

Officers are therefore confident that these proposals are economically sound and realistic in respect of actual delivery.

Schools are expected to incorporate this challenge within their existing approach to curriculum planning for a greener, sustainable future.

Cabinet reference	N/A
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9. Additional evidence

<https://www.theguardian.com/resource/switch-off-and-save>

10. Ongoing monitoring arrangements and governance

Monitoring arrangements

Monitoring will take place across the financial year 2023-24.

Review date

17/12/2023

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