



## Plans Submitted for New Soft Play Centre at Bangor's Menai Centre

A major new family attraction could be on its way to Bangor city centre, as plans have been submitted to transform a large vacant retail unit into a flagship indoor soft play centre.

The proposal would see Unit 7 at the Menai Centre, which has been empty for over a year following the closure of River Island in March 2025, brought back into use by expanding North Wales business Cubs Play Centre.

The unit, which spans more than 7,000 square feet, has been actively marketed by multiple agents but has so far failed to attract firm offers. If approved, the development would mark a significant step forward in efforts to revitalise Bangor's high street.

Cubs Play Centre, which opened its first site in Llangefni in January 2026, is now looking to expand and relocate its headquarters to Bangor, creating what would become its flagship venue.

The proposed facility would feature a multi-zoned indoor play space designed for children of all ages, including a baby sensory area, a dedicated toddler zone, and a larger soft play structure for primary school- aged children. Plans also include a café, party rooms, interactive play and space for community-focused activities such as parent and toddler sessions, educational workshops, seasonal events and maternity groups.

If given the green light, the scheme is expected to create between 25 and 30 jobs for local people.

A comprehensive fit-out is proposed, including new flooring, lighting, signage, specialist play equipment, upgraded electrical and plumbing systems, and fully refurbished toilet facilities.

Dafydd Roberts, founder of Cubs Play Centre, said the move represents a major milestone for the business.

"We've seen first-hand in Llangefni just how valuable a high-quality, safe, clean and welcoming play environment can be for families. Since opening we have been extremely popular, our feedback and reviews really showcase this. We will continue to provide the same level of standards and service while maintaining the culture and values that the local people have loved in the town of Llangefni"

Dafydd added, "Bangor is a natural next step for us. Opening a venue in the oldest city in Wales is a privilege we don't take lightly. There's something truly special about becoming part of such a rich history while helping shape its future. We're excited by the prospect of the high street coming back to life, and proud to play a role in its regeneration and growth, contributing to a vibrant new chapter for the community.

This wouldn't just be a play centre, it would be a place for families to come together, celebrate, learn and spend time in a space designed with them in the forefront of our mind."

Since purchasing the Menai Centre, Quidos Investments Ltd says it has been working to attract new tenants and breathe fresh life into the site.

Nick Pritchard, Director of Quidos Investments, said:

"This is a very positive step for Bangor city centre. Since assuming ownership of the Menai Centre, we have been in ongoing discussions with a number of prospective tenants, and this proposal reflects the kind of high- quality, community-focused investment we want to see.

"We're committed to working in partnership with businesses and stakeholders to bring forward developments that increase footfall and support the wider high street. There are some exciting opportunities in the pipeline, so watch this space."

The new play centre is expected to significantly boost footfall in Bangor, particularly among families, grandparents and carers, helping to support surrounding businesses and strengthen the city centre economy.

The planning submission marks the first stage in the process, with further details expected to be revealed if plans are approved.

