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## EDUCATION AND ECONOMY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 20/06/19

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**Present:** Councillor Paul Rowlinson (Chair)  
Councillor Elwyn Jones (Vice-chair)

**Councillors:** Freya Bentham, Steve Collings, Aled Evans, Selwyn Griffiths, Alwyn Gruffydd, Judith Humphreys, Elin Walker Jones, Gareth Jones, Cai Larsen, Beth Lawton, Dewi Owen, Dewi Roberts and Elfed Roberts.

**Co-opted Members:** Dilwyn Elis Hughes (UCAC).

**Officers present:** Vera Jones (Democratic Services Manager) and Eirian Roberts (Member Support and Scrutiny Officer).

**Present for item 7 below:**

Garem Jackson (Head of Education)  
Debbie A.W.Jones (Education Corporate Services Officer)  
Siân Eirug (Temporary Secondary Language Strategic Coordinator)

**Present for item 8 below:**

Garem Jackson (Head of Education)  
Debbie A.W.Jones (Education Corporate Services Officer)  
Gwenan Ellis Jones (Language Charter Co-ordinator)

Councillors Elin Walker Jones a Gareth Jones were welcomed to their first meeting of this committee.

**1. ELECTION OF CHAIR**

Councillor Paul Rowlinson was elected Chair of this Committee for 2019/20.

**2. ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR**

Councillor Elwyn Jones was elected Vice-chair of this Committee for 2019/20.

**3. APOLOGIES**

Councillors:- Huw Wyn Jones, Mair Rowlands, Gareth Williams;  
David Healey (ATL);  
Councillor Cemlyn Rees Williams (Cabinet Member for Education).

**4. DECLARATION OF PERSONAL INTEREST**

No declarations of personal interest were received from any members present.

**5 URGENT ITEMS**

None to note.

**6. MINUTES**

The Chair signed the minutes of the previous meeting of this committee held on 21 March, 2019 as a true record, subject to adding a reference to looking at the possibility of cooperating with counties in the West under item 8 - Twf Scheme Application for North Wales.

## **7. SECONDARY SECTOR LANGUAGE STRATEGY**

Submitted – the report of the Cabinet Member for Education detailing the implementation and impact of the Secondary Sector Language Strategy.

The Head of Education and officers elaborated on the contents of the report, and also responded to questions / observations from members.

Because of the evident intertwining between the Secondary Sector Language Strategy and the Gwynedd Primary Schools Welsh Language Charter, the Primary Schools Language Charter was also scrutinised before summarising the main conclusions of the discussions on both items at the end.

## **8. THE GWYNEDD PRIMARY SCHOOLS WELSH LANGUAGE CHARTER**

Submitted – the report of the Cabinet Member for Education detailing the implementation and impact of the Gwynedd Primary Schools Welsh Language Charter.

The Head of Education and officers elaborated on the contents of the report, and also responded to questions / observations from members.

The main conclusions and recommendations that arose from the discussion on the Secondary Sector Language Strategy and the Primary Schools Welsh Language Charter were summarised as follows:-

- There was a clear message from members to keep a foot on the pedal and continue with the flurry of activity etc, providing support to ensure that this is undertaken. This is specifically to ensure that the Language Charter has status, as part of the new curriculum (although there is some concern that it will run alongside, rather than being integral to it) and also to ensure that the Language Charter has status as part of every school's plans.
- There was also a message regarding sharing good practice, ensuring that this happens in primary and secondary schools in general, and also that good practice needs to be identified in new interest areas, where we perhaps need to focus more on the social website side, the web, television programmes etc.
- There was also a message regarding the work that is dependent on all staff in our schools and strong encouragement to try and spread the message beyond school boundaries, with parents and society in general.
- In terms of data, there was better understanding amongst members of the data submitted to this meeting, but perhaps there was room to consider revisiting the original baseline and update committee members in due course when the Government's study of the field is mature.
- Specifically, in terms of the Secondary Sector Language Strategy, there was room to consider extending the questionnaire for older young people (16-18 age group) to see if there were any lessons to be learnt, and having learnt lessons, adapting the help and support and intervention offered.
- There was also room to press for working with pupils to encourage more bilingualism and for that to happen continuously within our schools, encouraging pupils to follow courses specifically through the medium of Welsh. Also, support for teachers should be ensured, for youth workers and all who are involved in

promoting the Language Charter to assist with the Strategy in secondary and the primary Language Charter.

- It will be necessary to look outside the committee on how members can get a taste of the psychology of language training.
- It will be necessary at an informal meeting of the committee to give attention to a few other matters that arose during the discussion, but were not directly associated with the two areas in question, namely the need to keep an eye on what is happening in terms of developments with school language categories, lack of Welsh language textbooks/materials for school pupils and a shortage of students leading to redundancies at Bangor University's School of Education.

The meeting commenced at 10.30 am and concluded at 12.15 pm

**CHAIRMAN**