

CYNGOR GWYNEDD
EDUCATION AND ECONOMY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE DECISION NOTICE

(Section 100C of the Local Government Act 1972)

10 April 2025

Multi-location Meeting

Attendance:

Councillors: Councillor Cai Larsen (Chair)
Councillor Rhys Tudur (Vice-chair)

Councillors:- Beca Brown, Jina Gwyrfai, Dawn Lynne Jones, Elwyn Jones, Gareth Tudor Jones, Gwilym Jones, Beth Lawton, Dewi Owen, John Pughe Roberts, Richard Glyn Roberts, Huw Llwyd Rowlands, Dyfrig Siencyn, Gwynfor Owen and Sian Williams.

Co-opted Members: Colette Owen (Catholic Church), Sharon Roberts (Arfon Parent/Governor Representative), Elise Poulter (NEU) and Gweno Glyn Williams (Dwyfor Parent/Governor Representative).

Officers present: Bethan Adams (Scrutiny Adviser), Llywela Haf Owain (Senior Language and Scrutiny Adviser) and Jasmine Jones (Democracy Services Officer).

Present for item 5 - Councillor Dewi Jones (Cabinet Member for Education), Gwern ap Rhisiart (Head of Education), Llion Williams (Safeguarding and Well-being Quality Leader) and Steffan Williams (Youth Service Manager).

Present for item 6 – Councillor Dewi Jones (Cabinet Member for Education), Gwern ap Rhisiart (Head of Education) and Ffion Edwards Ellis (Assistant Head: Special Education Needs and Inclusion).

Present for item 7 - Councillor Dewi Jones (Cabinet Member for Education), Gwern ap Rhisiart (Head of Education), Rhys Meredydd Glyn (Head of Gwynedd Immersion Education Scheme), Iwan Gwilym Evans (Monitoring Officer/Head of Legal Service), Gwyn Tudur (Assistant Head: Secondary), Meirion Prys Jones (Consultant) and Councillors:- Anne Lloyd Jones, Elfed Williams (Language Committee Members).

Apologies: Councillor Gwilym Iwan Huws; Gwilym Jones (NASUWT).

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(Section 100C of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended by the Local Authorities (Coronavirus) Regulations (Meetings) (Wales) 2020)

Date of EDUCATION AND ECONOMY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE Meeting

10 April 2025

SUBJECT

Item 5: YOUTH SERVICE

DECISION

1. To accept the report and note the observations.
 2. To recommend to the Cabinet Member / Education Department:
 - Consistency in the provision needs to be ensured across the County.
 - To identify ways of engaging more broadly with young people and in particular specific groups of young people.
 - Consultation should take place with Town and Community Councils with a view to increasing the number of community clubs.
 - Work should continue with partners to ensure the best provision, for example the Urdd, Young Farmers.
 3. To ask the Youth Service Manager to share data on the number of individuals participating in the provision, and good practice in relation to community clubs, with committee members.
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THE RESULT OF THE VOTE

In favour	19
Against	0
Abstentions	0

DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTEREST AND PROTOCOL MATTERS

- Councillor Dawn Lynne Jones declared a personal interest as she was involved with Porthi Dre Youth Club.

The member was not of the opinion that it was a prejudicial interest, and she did not leave the meeting during the discussion.

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10 April 2025

SUBJECT

Item 6: ADDITIONAL LEARNING NEEDS IN MAINSTREAM AND SPECIAL SCHOOLS

DECISION

1. To accept the report and note the observations.
 2. Ask the Cabinet Member for Education
 - To consider examining whether the membership of the guidance group for admissions to special schools should be amended.
 - To look at ways to identify, improve provision and facilitate arrangements for the specific cohort of children who are in the mainstream, who have profound needs but do not meet the threshold for receiving support
 - To look at ways to continue to protect the budget for special schools and monitor that money is being spent appropriately and in line with the guidelines.
 - to encourage practitioners to take advantage of training, and to ascertain whether it is possible to ensure funding received for training is spent solely on training
 - To investigate the possibility of providing satellite provision in some schools.
 - To correspond with Welsh Government to express concern about the lack of funding and resources available for additional learning needs and the challenges facing schools
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THE RESULT OF THE VOTE

In favour	19
Against	0
Abstentions	0

DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTEREST AND PROTOCOL MATTERS

- Councillor Gwynfor Owen declared a personal interest as he was a governor of Ysgol Hafod Lon.
- Councillor Dawn Lynne Jones declared a personal interest because she had grandchildren who attended Ysgol Pendalar, and due to the nature of her job supporting young people with IDPs.

The members were not of the opinion that they were prejudicial interests, and they did not leave the meeting during the discussion.

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- Bethan Adams (Scrutiny Adviser) declared a personal interest because she had a nephew who attended a mainstream school in Gwynedd and who received additional learning needs provision.

The officer was of the opinion that it was a prejudicial interest, and she left the meeting during the discussion on the item.

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Date of EDUCATION AND ECONOMY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE Meeting

10 April 2025

SUBJECT

Item 7: EDUCATION LANGUAGE POLICY

DECISION

1. To note the draft policy and note the observations.
 2. To welcome the fact that the draft policy was proceeding to consultation.
 3. That the Committee makes a request to the Scrutiny Forum to prioritise resources for the formation of a task and finish group, with the brief to examine the wording of the Draft Education Language Policy to consider whether suggestions need to be made to the Cabinet Member / Education Department, and report back to the committee at the 19 June 2025 meeting.
 4. Should the application to the Scrutiny Forum be successful, the Scrutiny Adviser to send an email to Committee members giving them the opportunity to put their names forward to be members of the Task and Finish Group.
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THE RESULT OF THE VOTE

In favour	18
Against	0
Abstentions	0

DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTEREST AND PROTOCOL MATTERS

- Gweno Glyn Williams (Dwyfor Parents/Governors Representative) declared a personal interest because she was closely related to the co-author of the draft policy.
- Colette Owen (Catholic Church) declared a personal interest because she was an education adviser to the Diocese of Wrexham.

The members were not of the opinion that they were prejudicial interests, and they did not leave the meeting during the discussion.
