

**EDUCATION AND ECONOMY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE DECISION NOTICE  
CYNGOR GWYNEDD**

**(Section 100C of the Local Government Act 1972)**

**19 June 2025**

**Hybrid 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, Gwynfor Owen, John Pughe Roberts, Richard Glyn Roberts, Huw Llwyd Rowlands, Dyfrig Siencyn and Sian Williams.

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

**Officers**

**present:**

Bethan Adams (Scrutiny Advisor), Annes Sion (Democracy Team Leader), Dafydd Gibbard (Chief Executive (for items 5 and 6) and Geraint Owen (Corporate Director) (for items 7-9).

**Present for item 5** - Councillor Dewi Jones (Cabinet Member for Education), Gwern ap Rhisiart (Head of Education), Debbie Anne Jones (Assistant Head: Corporate Services), Siwan Llwyd Roberts (Head of Gwynedd Immersion Education System), Iwan Gwilym Evans (Head of Legal Service) and Meirion Prys Jones (Consultant).

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

**Present for item 7** - Councillor R Medwyn Hughes (Cabinet Member for Economy), Sioned Williams (Head of Economy and Community Department), Roland Wyn Evans (Assistant Head Culture) and Llyr B Jones (Assistant Head of Economy and Community).

**Present for item 8** – Councillor Huw Wyn Jones (Cabinet Member for Finance), Dewi A Morgan (Head of Finance Department), Huw Ynyr (Assistant Head of Finance: Digital) and Sian Pugh (Assistant Head of Finance: Sustainability and Developments).

**Present for item 9** – Councillor Llio Elenid Owen (Cabinet Member for Corporate and Legal Services), Ian Jones (Head of Corporate Services Department), Iwan Gwilym Evans (Head of Legal Service) and Catrin Love (Assistant Head of Corporate Services).

**Apologies:** Councillor Dewi Owen, and Colette Owen (Co-opted Member – Catholic Church)

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<b>Date of EDUCATION AND ECONOMY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE Meeting</b>	<b>19 June 2025</b>
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**SUBJECT**

Item 1: ELECTION OF CHAIR

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**DECISION**

**To elect Councillor Cai Larsen as Chair for 2025/26.**

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**THE RESULT OF THE VOTE**

In favour	14
Against	0
Abstentions	0

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**DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTEREST AND PROTOCOL MATTERS**

No declarations of personal interest or relevant dispensations were received.

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**SUBJECT**

Item 2: ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR

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**DECISION**

**To elect Councillor Rhys Tudur as Vice-Chair for 2025/26.**

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**THE RESULT OF THE VOTE**

In favour	14
Against	0
Abstentions	0

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**DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTEREST AND PROTOCOL MATTERS**

No declarations of personal interest or relevant dispensations were received.

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**SUBJECT**

Item 7: DRAFT EDUCATION LANGUAGE POLICY TASK AND FINISH GROUP

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**DECISION**

- To note the output of the work of the Task and Finish Group but there was no consensus on all the recommended modifications;
  - To ask the Cabinet Member for Education to consider the range of comments submitted by the Scrutiny Members when drawing up the final policy.
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**THE RESULT OF THE VOTE**

In favour	16
Against	0
Abstentions	1

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**DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTEREST AND PROTOCOL MATTERS**

No declarations of personal interest or relevant dispensations were received.

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**SUBJECT**

Item 8: PERFORMANCE REPORT OF THE CABINET MEMBER FOR EDUCATION

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**DECISION**

To accept the report and note the comments and to request further action on some of the comments in relation to the following areas:

- Welsh Language and Language Centres
  - Learning environment for children with specific conditions
  - Type of buildings in terms of geographical locations plus transport costs
  - Child absences and inclusion along with children excluded from education and who are homeschooled
  - Data reliability where the database is small
  - Costs relating to access to education specifically for low-income families and children excluded from school
  - Appointment of Headteachers
  - Timeliness in the delivery of the Education Strategy.
- 

**THE RESULT OF THE VOTE**

In favour	16
Against	0
Abstentions	0

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**DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTEREST AND PROTOCOL MATTERS**

No declarations of personal interest or relevant dispensations were received.

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**SUBJECT**

Item 9: PERFORMANCE REPORT OF THE CABINET MEMBER FOR THE ECONOMY

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**DECISION**

- To accept the report and note the comments;
  - That consideration needs to be given to scrutiny of the benefit of the Growth Deal for Gwynedd including the alternative project in Trawsfynydd
  - To ask the Economy and Community Department to provide three-year rolling data on numbers who have received return to work support
  - To ask the Department to make a request to Byw'n Iach Company for user data; To request that the department seeks funding and wider support for the Caernarfon Food Festival and to show more clearly in the report that there is funding for social enterprises.
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**THE RESULT OF THE VOTE**

In favour	12
Against	0
Abstentions	0

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**DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTEREST AND PROTOCOL MATTERS**

No declarations of personal interest or relevant dispensations were received.

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**SUBJECT**

Item 10: PERFORMANCE REPORT OF THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE

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**DECISION**

- To accept the report and to note the observations.
  - To accept that a Council Tax Premium Exemption Policy needs to be drawn up
  - That consideration needs to be given to whether there is a role for the Scrutiny Committee in the creation of the policy
  - To ask the Finance Department to share data in relation to Council Tax prosecutions with members.
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**THE RESULT OF THE VOTE**

In favour	11
Against	0
Abstentions	0

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**DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTEREST AND PROTOCOL MATTERS**

No declarations of personal interest or relevant dispensations were received.

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**SUBJECT**

Item 11: PERFORMANCE REPORT OF THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CORPORATE AND LEGAL SERVICES AND FOR THE WELSH LANGUAGE

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**DECISION**

- To accept the report and to note the observations.
  - To welcome that a detailed work programme is being drawn up to address the recommendations of the Information Commissioner's Office following an audit of the Council's arrangements in relation to freedom of information requests
  - That the Committee receive an update on the Customer Care Plan as it develops
  - That Heads of Department need to be encouraged to respond to the annual questionnaire from the Legal Service
  - To request that the Scrutiny Committee receive information about prosecutions relating to pupil absences.
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**THE RESULT OF THE VOTE**

In favour	10
Against	0
Abstentions	0

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**DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTEREST AND PROTOCOL MATTERS**

No declarations of personal interest or relevant dispensations were received.

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