

<b>COMMITTEE</b>	Education and Economy Scrutiny Committee
<b>DATE</b>	8 October 2020
<b>SUBJECT</b>	Cabinet Decision 15/09/2020. Item 5 - Ysgol Abersoch
<b>AUTHOR</b>	Geraint Owen, Head of Democratic Services

1. The following decision has been called in for scrutiny, in accordance with section 7.25 of the Council's Constitution.

**Item 5: Ysgol Abersoch, Cabinet decision 15/09/2020.**

**"Permission was granted to hold a statutory consultation, in accordance with the requirements of section 48 of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013, on the proposal to close Ysgol Abersoch on 31 August 2021 and to provide a place for the pupils at Ysgol Sarn Bach from 1 September 2021 onwards."**

2. The request to call in the item to be scrutinised was made by Councillors Paul Rowlinson (Chair of the Scrutiny Committee), Dewi Roberts and Elwyn Jones within the necessary requirements and timeframe.
3. The reasons for calling in, namely the aspects of the decision that it is considered should be scrutinised, have been noted as follows:

*"Owing to the COVID situation and legal guidelines and the Education Department's policies, it is not possible to hold meetings in the usual manner and it is impossible to hold meetings with some people who have a keen interest in the matter. It is also impossible to hold public meetings in the usual manner. The Head was off work during the period. Therefore, continuing with the process under these circumstances was unfair for the school and community. According to the school's representatives, it has not been registered as a Rural School and we question why this is the case. Some believe that small schools should not be closed without scrutinising the decision".*
4. In order to assist the Scrutiny Committee to scrutinise the matter in accordance with the aspects of the decision that it is considered should be scrutinised, the following documents are enclosed with this report.
  - Appendix 1 - the Education Department's response to the aspects of the decision that it is considered should be scrutinised
  - Appendix 2 - Cabinet Decision Notice (Item 5, 15/09/2020)
  - Appendix 3 - Cabinet Report (Item 5, 15/09/2020)