

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

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

8 October 2020

Virtual Meeting

Attendance:

Councillors:

Steve Collings, Aled Evans, Selwyn Griffiths, Alwyn Gruffydd, Judith Humphreys, Elin Walker Jones, Elwyn Jones, Gareth Tudor Morris Jones, Huw Wyn Jones, Cai Larsen, Beth Lawton, Dewi Owen, Dewi Roberts, Elfed Powell Roberts, Mair Rowlands, Paul Rowlinson (Chair).

Co-opted Member:

Dilwyn Elis Hughes (UCAC)

Officers present:

Sion Huws (Senior Solicitor - Corporate), Vera Jones (Democracy and Language Services Manager), Bethan Adams (Scrutiny Advisor) and Eirian Roberts (Democracy Services Officer).

Present for item 7:

Councillor Cemlyn Williams (Cabinet Member for Education)

Garem Jackson (Head of Education)

Gwern ap Rhisiart (Dwyfor / Meirionnydd Area Education Officer)

Also in attendance:

Margot Jones (Ysgol Abersoch Chair of Governors) and Eifiona Wood (Ysgol Abersoch Vice-chair of Governors)

Apologies

Councillor Freya Bentham, Anest Gray Frazer (Church in Wales) and Dylan Huw Jones (NASUWT)

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

(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 | 8 October 2020 |
|---|----------------|

SUBJECT

Item 7: CABINET DECISION 15-0-20 - ITEM 5 - YSGOL ABERSOCH

DECISION

That the scrutiny committee remained concerned about the situation and, therefore, refers the matter back to the Cabinet for reconsideration for the following reasons:

- 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 individuals who have a keen interest in the matter. It is also impossible to hold public meetings in the usual manner in the community to discuss and respond to the consultation.
 - The Head was off work during this period, and continues to be off work. As the permanent head knows the school's situation best, continuing with the process while she remains off work would be unfair to the school and the community.
 - Some believe that small schools should not be closed without scrutinising the decision.
-

THE RESULT OF THE VOTE

In favour: 5
Against: 1
Abstentions: 5

DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL INTEREST AND PROTOCOL MATTERS

Councillor Dewi Roberts declared a personal interest in the matter as he was a governor of the school but, as he had been appointed to that role by the Authority, he had been advised that an exception in the Code allowed him to take part in the discussion fully.
