

<b>MEETING</b>	EDUCATION AND ECONOMY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
<b>DATE</b>	2 February 2023
<b>TITLE</b>	Gwynedd Category 3 Secondary Schools Scrutiny Investigation Brief
<b>PURPOSE OF THE REPORT</b>	To adopt the investigation's brief and to elect members
<b>AUTHOR</b>	Bethan Adams, Scrutiny Advisor

1. Education and Economy Scrutiny Committee members have identified the need to give attention to the Welsh-medium provision in the County's Secondary Schools.
2. At the Committee's informal meeting on 8 December 2022, a draft brief for a scrutiny investigation was considered. A scrutiny investigation looks in depth into a subject and gathers evidence which includes listening to people's experiences over a period of around 6 to 9 months. The Committee members welcomed the intention to carry out an investigation and to do so in a constructive manner making useful recommendations based on evidence.
3. The Scrutiny Forum (meeting of scrutiny chairs and vice-chairs) has a role to advise on the prioritization of scrutiny investigations in the context of the resources available. At the Forum's meeting on 11 January 2023, consideration was given to the draft brief and the investigation was prioritized.
4. See attached to the report, as an appendix, the investigation's draft brief.
5. The main question the investigation will address is:  
  
'What is the Welsh medium provision in our secondary schools and what plans are in place to increase provision at Key Stage 3, Key Stage 4, and Key Stage 5 in Gwynedd?'
6. The investigation will consider the implementation of the Authority's Language Education Policy in three category 3 secondary schools (1 school from Arfon, Dwyfor and Meirionnydd). The Education Department suggests the following schools, as post-16 considerations could be included in 2 out of the 3 schools, namely:
  - Ysgol Dyffryn Nantlle
  - Ysgol Eifionydd
  - Ysgol Godre'r Berwyn
7. At the Committee's informal meeting on 8 December 2022, members were invited to express an interest in being members of the investigation. Expressions of interest were received from Councillors Cai Larsen, Paul Rowlinson and Rhys Tudur following the meeting.
8. A maximum of 5 members can be part of the investigation and in accordance with the Council's Constitution, the membership must include representation from no less than two different political groups.
9. **The Committee is asked to:**
  - (i) **adopt the brief.**
  - (ii) **elect members to undertake the work of the investigation.**