



MEETING	EDUCATION AND ECONOMY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
DATE	18 July 2024
TITLE	Education and Economy Scrutiny Committee Forward Programme 2024/25
PURPOSE OF THE REPORT	Present the Committee's draft work programme for 2024/25 for adoption
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1. During the Committee's annual workshop on 24 April 2024 possible items to scrutinise during 2024/25 were considered. Items were prioritised bearing in mind the purpose of scrutiny in Gwynedd, namely:

CONTRIBUTE TO DRIVING IMPROVEMENT IN SERVICES FOR THE PEOPLE OF GWYNEDD

This will be done constructively by:

- Investigating concerns regarding the quality of our services
- Acting as a Critical Friend, and ensuring that appropriate attention is given to the citizen's voice
- Identifying good practice and weaknesses
- Holding the Cabinet and its members to account
- Reviewing or scrutinising decisions or actions that are not the responsibility of the Cabinet

2. Members were asked to respond to an online question regarding their top five priorities from the list of possible items provided in advance prior to the workshop. The main priorities that emerged from the responses to the question, were:
 1. Additional Learning Needs in the mainstream and special schools
= Gwynedd Economy Plan
 2. Pupils' attendance and behaviour in Gwynedd schools
= Education Transport
= Education Language Policy
= School Revenue Budgets
= Gwynedd and Eryri Sustainable Visitor Economy Plan
3. Members discussed the top priorities as well as what else from the list should be scrutinised during 2024/25. When identifying their priorities members were asked to consider:

- ❖ *Does the matter affect a vast proportion of the population?*
- ❖ *Can scrutiny make a difference / have an influence? (People / service / performance)*
- ❖ *Is it timely to scrutinise the matter?*
- ❖ *Is the matter a priority for the Council?*
- ❖ *Are we clear about what we are trying to improve?*

4. Items to scrutinise were prioritised and the relevant Heads of Department and Cabinet Members were invited to note any additional matters that needed consideration in terms of the items prioritised by Members of the Committee as well as provide observations on the timing of the scrutiny.
5. An effort was made to prioritise a maximum of three items per meeting in order to ensure that due attention was given to matters and that scrutiny would add value. All members are expected to ensure their attendance for the morning and afternoon session.
6. 'North Wales Economic Ambition Board' was identified as a reserve item due to the changes underway with the North Wales Corporate Joint Committee. Written updates are requested, with the matter prioritised for scrutiny if a concern arises during the year.
7. No conclusion was reached at the workshop whether the Supporting Community / Social Enterprises Scrutiny Investigation should be prioritised.
8. The scrutiny forward programme is a live programme which will be reviewed regularly during the year to ensure that the correct matters are addressed. Consideration will be given to prioritise matters that will arise during the year e.g., matters from performance challenge meetings and items on the Cabinet's forward programme.
9. A request was received following the workshop to scrutinise 'Safeguarding Arrangements in Schools'. The item was added to be considered at this meeting in order for the Committee to receive assurance regarding the arrangements.
10. See attached as an appendix to the report the Committee's draft work programme.
11. **The Education and Economy Scrutiny Committee is asked to adopt the work programme for 2024/25.**

EDUCATION AND ECONOMY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE DRAFT FORWARD PROGRAMME 2024/25

Date	Items	Reason for scrutiny
18/7/24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GwE Annual Report • Middle Tier Review - Schools Improvement Service • Safeguarding Arrangements in schools • Gwynedd and Eryri Sustainable Visitor Economy Plan 2035 	Annual Item / Assurance
		Input to the future direction
		Assurance in terms of the arrangements
		Council Plan 2023-28 - A Prosperous Gwynedd
17/10/24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Progress report on response to Estyn recommendations • Transform education for children in their early years • Staff Well-being Strategy 	External Auditor's Report
		Council Plan 2023-28 – Tomorrow's Gwynedd
		Scrutiny of staff well-being support
12/12/24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School Revenue Budgets • Education Transport • Immersion Education System 	The Impact on Gwynedd Schools
		Overspending in the field
		Council Plan 2023-28 - A Welsh Gwynedd
13/2/25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education Language Policy • Gwynedd Economy Plan 	Council Plan 2023-28 - A Welsh Gwynedd
		Strategic Plan
10/4/25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth Service • Additional Learning Needs in the mainstream and special schools 	Council Plan 2023-28 – Tomorrow's Gwynedd
		Scrutinise the additional learning needs education provision

Reserve Item - North Wales Economic Ambition Board