

MEETING	EDUCATION AND ECONOMY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
DATE	16 October 2025
TITLE	Education and Economy Scrutiny Committee Forward Programme 2025/26
PURPOSE OF THE REPORT	To present the Committee's draft work programme for 2025/26 for adoption
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1. All Council members, co-opted members, Cabinet Members, Heads of Department and the public were given the opportunity to propose potential items for scrutiny during 2025/26.
2. At the Committee's informal meeting on 17 July 2025, the potential items for scrutiny during 2025/26 were considered.
3. Information about the potential items was provided in advance to the committee members. The items included those that had been proposed at the Chair and Vice-chair's liaison meetings with the relevant Heads of Department and Cabinet Members and scrutinised items that required follow-up. There were also two items that had been proposed by Council members.
4. Items were prioritised at the meeting, keeping in mind the purpose of scrutiny in Gwynedd, namely to:

**CONTRIBUTE TOWARDS DRIVING IMPROVEMENT IN SERVICES
FOR THE PEOPLE OF GWYNEDD**

This will be done constructively by:

- Investigating concerns about the quality of our services
- Acting as a Critical Friend, 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

5. Members were asked to consider the following factors when prioritising items:
 - ❖ *Does the matter affect the residents of Gwynedd?*
 - ❖ *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?*

6. An attempt was made to prioritise a maximum of three items per meeting to ensure that matters received due attention and that scrutiny could add value. This was not possible this year with four items having been scheduled for each meeting. Members felt that the items prioritised needed to be scrutinised during the year. All members are expected to ensure their attendance at both the morning and afternoon session.
7. 'Attendance and behaviour of pupils in Gwynedd schools' and 'School Improvement Service' were identified as items to be scheduled in 2026/27.
8. The work of the Safeguarding Arrangements in Schools Scrutiny Investigation is ongoing. The intention was to present the investigation's final draft report to the Committee meeting on 11 December 2025.
9. Members of the investigation as well as the Crime Response Plan Programme Board have emphasised the need to ensure that pupils' voice is given due attention as part of the investigation. To ensure this, it is inevitable that the timetable for submitting a final draft report to the Committee will have to slip.
10. The scrutiny investigation will undoubtedly have the greatest possible impact on improving safeguarding arrangements through the undertaking of rigorous and comprehensive work, making recommendations that have been formulated with due regard to the voice of pupils.
11. The aim is to present the final draft report for consideration by the Committee at the meeting on 12 February 2026.
12. As a result of rescheduling the scrutiny investigation report, the work programme drawn up at the informal meeting will need to be amended. The relevant departments were contacted regarding the possibility of rescheduling an item from the February meeting to the December meeting. The Education Department has confirmed that the 'Education Strategy' item can be moved to the meeting on 11 December 2025.
13. See attached as an appendix to the report, the Committee's draft work programme.
14. The scrutiny forward programme is a live programme which will be reviewed regularly over the year to ensure that the proper matters are addressed. Consideration will be given to prioritising matters that arise during the year, e.g. matters arising from performance scrutiny, items on the Cabinet's forward programme and the Council's work programme in response to the Child Practice Review.
15. **The Education and Economy Scrutiny Committee is asked to adopt the work programme for 2025/26.**

EDUCATION AND ECONOMY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE DRAFT FORWARD PROGRAMME 2025/26

Date	Items	Reason for scrutiny
19/6/25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft Education Language Policy Task and Finish Group Report • Cabinet Member for Education - Performance Report • Cabinet Member for the Economy - Performance Report • Cabinet Member for Finance - Performance Report • Cabinet Member for Corporate and Legal Services and the Welsh Language - Performance Report 	Task and Finish Group
		Scrutiny of the performance of Council departments
16/10/25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gwynedd Economy Strategy • Immersion Education System • Procurement Strategy • Cabinet Member for Corporate and Legal Services and the Welsh Language - Performance Report 	Pre-decision scrutiny / Strategic Plan
		Council Plan 2023-28 – Gwynedd Gymraeg (A Welsh Gwynedd)
		Pre-decision scrutiny / Council Plan 2023-28 – A Prosperous Gwynedd
		Scrutiny of the performance of Council departments
11/12/25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education Strategy • Cabinet Member for Education - Performance Report • Cabinet Member for the Economy - Performance Report • Cabinet Member for Finance - Performance Report 	Pre-decision scrutiny / Council Plan 2023-28 – Tomorrow's Gwynedd
		Scrutiny of the performance of Council departments
12/2/26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safeguarding Arrangements in Schools Scrutiny Investigation Report • Education Transport • Tourism Levy 	Scrutiny Investigation
		Overspending in the field
		Impact on Gwynedd

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Benefit of the Growth Plan for Gwynedd 	Matter arising from performance scrutiny
23/4/26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Digital Plan 2023-28 Town Centre Vibrancy Gwynedd Economic Development Project Curriculum for Wales: The Relationships and Sexuality Education Code (RSE) and healthy relationships 	Council Plan 2023-28 - An Efficient Gwynedd
		Follow up / Council Plan 2023-28 – A Prosperous Gwynedd
		Follow up / Council Plan 2023-28 – A Prosperous Gwynedd
		Follow up to scrutiny in the 20 October 2022 meeting

Items to be scheduled in 2026/27 - Pupils' attendance and behaviour in Gwynedd schools, Schools Improvement Service