



CONCISE VERSION

ANNUAL SCRUTINY REPORT
2020-21



THE PURPOSE OF SCRUTINY

TO FACILITATE 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
- Review or scrutinise, decisions or actions, that are not the responsibility of the Cabinet

SCRUTINY DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Scrutiny has had to adapt its way of working over the past year. Here are the steps taken to restart the scrutiny work after it was delayed for a while due to the huge work pressures on Council services.

- Step 1** - Scrutiny Forum met on 10 July 2020 to discuss the way forward with recommencing the scrutiny work.
- Step 2** - Invite members to submit matters for Chairs and Vice-chairs to raise at informal meetings with Cabinet Members, Heads of Department and the relevant Director.
- Step 3** - Informal meetings with Cabinet Members, Heads of Department and the relevant Director during the period between 16 and 23 September.
- Step 4** - Scrutiny Forum met on 29 September 2020 to discuss the way forward in terms of recommencing the formal scrutiny work, and a discussion in terms of prioritising items.
- Step 5** - Scrutiny Committee meetings recommencing in October.
- Step 6** - Cabinet Member Sessions in November to share information about the work of departments, the impact of Covid-19 and the main priorities for the future. An unique opportunity to identify potential matters to scrutinise in the extraordinary period.

SCRUTINY ITEMS

In 2020-21, 29 items were scrutinised in formal scrutiny committees, including the following:

North Wales Economic Growth

Delivering the Youth Engagement and Development Framework in Gwynedd

Use of the Housing Support Grant to reduce homelessness in Gwynedd

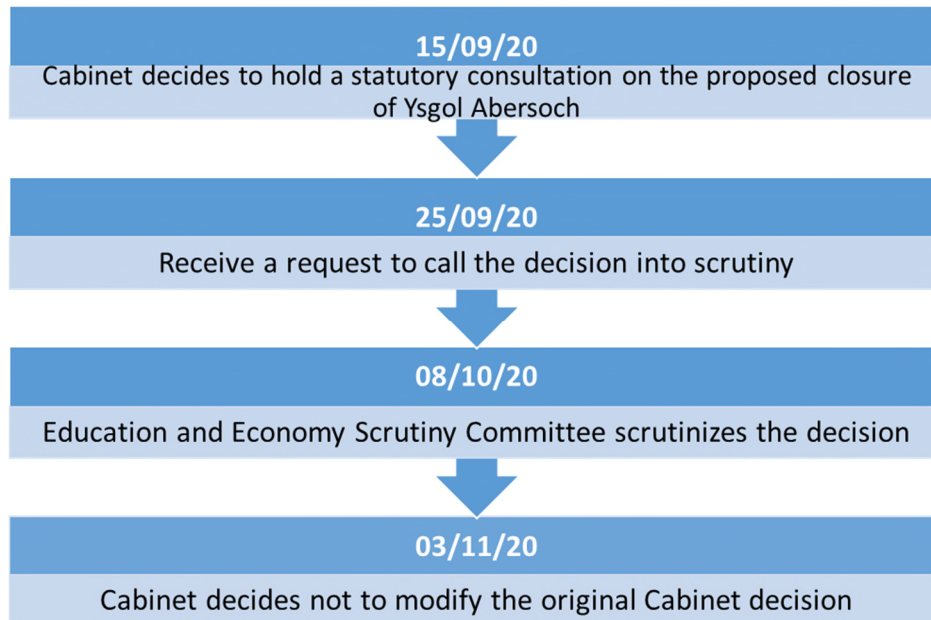
Research Paper: Managing the use of dwellings as holiday homes

Public Protection Services Control of Firework Displays

Scrutiny members choose items and identify a topic that is important and needs to be scrutinised in order to make a difference to the people of Gwynedd. Scrutiny members will continue to do so in 2021-22.

CALL-IN

As part of the scrutiny system, members have the right to call-in decisions to scrutinise. In 2020/21, one decision was called in for scrutiny, namely the Cabinet's decision to undertake a statutory consultation on the proposal to close Ysgol Abersoch.



Although the Cabinet did not amend its original decision. This scrutiny work managed to highlight local concerns with the Cabinet recognising the need to keep an eye on the consultation and to ask the Education Department to provide a regular report on how the process was moving forward.

All information about scrutiny work in 2020-21 is available in the full version on the Council website - <https://www.gwynedd.llyw.cymru/scrutiny>

Facts about Scrutiny in Gwynedd in 2020/21

48 members have been a part of undertaking important scrutiny work during the year.

29 items have been scrutinised in formal meetings.

3 meetings of the Scrutiny Forum have been held during the year.

A total of **32** scrutiny members have **attended 9** Cabinet Member information sharing **sessions**.

Others who are part of the scrutiny work:

- ❖ **7** co-opted members (5 with a vote on education matters only, 2 without a vote)
- ❖ **1** lay member

Meetings were held between the Chairs and Vice-chairs and relevant Cabinet Members and Heads of Department.

Support for the scrutiny work by the Democracy and Language Manager, Senior Language and Scrutiny Advisor and Scrutiny Advisor.