

# Education & Children Scrutiny Committee

## 30th November 2021

### Future Arrangements for School Engagement Sessions

#### To consider and comment on the following issues:

- Arrangements for engagement with schools during current limitations
- Additional considerations regarding school engagement sessions – timings, themes and formats of session

#### Reasons:

- Current limitations mean that scrutiny visits to schools are not possible. Education Services have therefore provided a new structure to allow scrutiny to ensure that evaluation and improvement is functioning effectively.
- The sessions will help scrutiny to oversee the quality of delivery by the local authority and, in doing so, to fulfil their democratic accountability functions. It will also provide scrutiny with an insight into how schools are preparing for significant changes in areas such as new curriculum and ALN
- Scrutiny members need to consider the format and approaches to the engagement sessions.
- Are the sessions focusing on the correct themes affecting schools at this current time?

To be referred to the Cabinet / Council for decision: No

#### CABINET MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER:- Councillor Glynog Davies

<b>Directorate Education and Children Services</b>	<b>Designations:</b>	<b>Tel Nos. / E Mail Addresses:</b>
<b>Name of Head of Service:</b> Aneirin Thomas	Head of Education Services and Inclusion	01267 246506 <a href="mailto:arthomas@sirgar.gov.uk">arthomas@sirgar.gov.uk</a>
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# Executive Summary

## Education & Children Scrutiny Committee

### 30<sup>th</sup> November 2021

#### Future Arrangements for School Engagement Sessions

##### Scrutiny School Engagement Sessions

Scrutiny should enhance both improvement, accountability, and transparency within the local authority. The Education Scrutiny Committee should focus on ensuring that schools are well supported to deliver high quality education to all pupils.

School engagement sessions should be used effectively as part of scrutiny's wider processes to:

1. hold Cabinet members to account for the quality and impact of the Council's services to support schools;
2. scrutinise the work of the Council with regard to the services provided to support schools, rather than using their accountability arrangements to hold schools to account;
3. scrutinise how effectively the local authority works with the regional consortium, understanding that accountability for regional consortia is through their Joint Committee or Company Board (see below);
4. monitor and scrutinise the use of statutory powers to support and improve schools causing concern, in particular secondary schools.
5. consider the impact of decisions to reorganise schools on the improvement of schools.

Direct and first-hand engagement with schools will provide valuable opportunities for members of scrutiny to better understand the impact that the local authority's support has on provision across our school system.

The engagement sessions can take the form of physical meetings to schools, use of digital technology or requesting schools to attend meetings in the council chamber.

Key themes for academic year September 2021.

	Theme	Approach
January 2022	Recovery from covid Wellbeing of staff	Remotely
Spring 2022	Preparedness for ALN transformation	Currently remotely
Summer 2022	Preparedness for Curriculum WESP	Currently remotely
Autumn 2022	MEP – buildings	School Visits

**DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED?**

**YES**

## IMPLICATIONS

I confirm that other than those implications which have been agreed with the appropriate Directors / Heads of Service and are referred to in detail below, there are no other implications associated with this report:

Signed: **Aneirin Thomas** **Head of Education and Inclusion**

Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities	Legal	Finance	ICT	Risk Management Issues	Staffing Implications	Physical Assets
<b>NONE</b>	<b>NONE</b>	<b>NONE</b>	<b>NONE</b>	<b>NONE</b>	<b>NONE</b>	<b>NONE</b>

## CONSULTATIONS

I confirm that the appropriate consultations have taken in place and the outcomes are as detailed below

Signed: **Aneirin Thomas** **Head of Education and Inclusion**

1. Local Member(s)- N/A
2. Community / Town Council- N/A
3. Relevant Partners - N/A
4. Staff Side Representatives and other Organisations - N/A

<b>CABINET MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER(S) AWARE/CONSULTED</b>	N/A
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**Section 100D Local Government Act, 1972 – Access to Information  
List of Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:**

**THERE ARE NONE**

Title of Document	File Ref No.	Locations that the papers are available for public inspection