

ISLE OF ANGLESEY COUNTY COUNCIL

Scrutiny Report Template

Committee:	Partnership and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee
Date:	19 June 2018
Subject:	Scrutiny of Partnerships
Purpose of Report:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Submit an overview of work undertaken by the Committee between May, 2017 and May, 2018 2. Consider the Committee's forward work programme for 2018/19
Scrutiny Chair:	Councillor Gwilym Jones
Portfolio Holder(s):	Councillor Dafydd Rhys Thomas, Portfolio Member for Corporate Services
Head of Service:	Annwen Morgan, Assistant Chief Executive (Partnerships, Community and Service Improvement)
Report Author:	Anwen Davies / Geraint Wyn Roberts
Tel:	01248 752039
Email:	geraintroberts@ynysmon.gov.uk
Local Members:	Not applicable

1 - Recommendation/s

The Committee is requested to note and support the:

R1 Scrutiny of key partnerships undertaken during 2017/18

R2 Characteristics of effective partnership scrutiny (discussed in paragraph 5.6 of the report) as a foundation to further develop our local scrutiny arrangements

R3 Key partnerships identified (in paragraph 5.9 of the report) to be prioritised in the forward work plan of the Committee, over a 2-3 year period

R4 Proposed next steps as detailed in paragraph 5.9 of the report.

2 – Link to Council Plan / Other Corporate Priorities

This work-stream will make a significant contribution to one of the key themes running through the Council Plan 2017/2022 namely - the Council's ambition to work with the people of Anglesey, our communities and partners to ensure high quality services that will improve the quality of life for everyone on the Island.

3 – Guiding Principles for Scrutiny Members

To assist Members when scrutinising the topic:-

3.1 Impact the matter has on individuals and communities [**focus on customer/citizen**]

3.2 A look at the efficiency & effectiveness of any proposed change – both financially and in terms of quality [**focus on value**]

3.3 A look at any risks [**focus on risk**]

3.4 Scrutiny taking a performance monitoring or quality assurance role [**focus on performance & quality**]

3.5 Looking at plans and proposals from a perspective of:

- Long term
- Prevention
- Integration
- Collaboration
- Involvement

[**focus on wellbeing**]

4 - Key Scrutiny Questions

1. Does the table included in the report (paragraph 5.9) identify a fair balance of partnerships?
2. Are you satisfied that the report provides a robust way forward to scrutinise partnerships and shape the forward work programme of the Committee?
3. Does the Committee have any views on the prioritisation of the partnerships to be scrutinised?
4. Do Members have any other general views in moving forward with our scrutiny work of partnerships during 2018/19 and beyond?

5 – Background / Context

BACKGROUND

5.1 Working in partnership has become an important part of the Authority's working practices, providing additional resilience to the Authority's service delivery capacity. Whilst partnership working can bring significant benefits, such as responding to complex challenges, providing flexibility and additional resources to service delivery, it is not always easy and can carry significant risks not least to sustainability and cost effectiveness. A number of reports over the past few years¹ have drawn attention to the need for improvement and strengthened scrutiny of partnership arrangements in public services.

5.2 **Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015:** the need to further strengthen scrutiny of partnerships is reinforced in the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 (the Act). The Act puts long-term sustainability at the forefront of how public services are designed and delivered, and places emphasis on public bodies working in partnership to ensure better outcomes now and in the future. Our local arrangements should also develop in a way that shows commitment to the Sustainable Development Principle of the Wellbeing Act. This means:

¹ Commission on Public Service Governance and Delivery (Welsh Government January, 2014), Guidance for Local Authority Scrutiny Committees on the scrutiny of Public Services Boards (August, 2017) & Strengthening Local Government: Delivering for People (March, 2018)

Acting in a manner which seeks to ensure that the needs of the present are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs

Robust monitoring and scrutiny arrangements of our partnership working should therefore add value to our partnership working locally.

CONTEXT

5.3 The Isle of Anglesey County Council has extensive experience of working in partnership, be it on a local, regional or national level². With increasing pressure on public finances, the Council has clear guidelines in place for determining when to establish partnerships, which service(s) and the outcomes expected of them and for the sound management of the relationship in order to:

- Enable us to deliver on our Council Plan and strategic priorities. Also, to improve the experience and outcomes for individuals who use our services
- Evidence value for money or cost efficiency in our future investments and ensure clear and measurable outcomes
- Respond to partnership risks and ensure that areas for development are addressed
- Have clarity around accountability and monitoring arrangements
- Identify any scope to rationalise partnerships and ensure a clear procedure for bringing any arrangements to an end.

This area of work focuses on partnerships where the Council chooses to work with other organisations in the private, public or voluntary sector. It does not address the links made through the procurement process³.

5.4 On 14th March 2016, the Executive approved a Corporate Partnerships Policy document as a foundation for our partnership working and also as a framework to guide partnership monitoring arrangements. In the policy a partnership is defined as:

“A joint working arrangement where the partners are otherwise independent bodies, agree to co-operate to achieve a common goal of community cohesion and to achieve it, create an organisational structure or process and agreed programme.”

SCRUTINY OF PARTNERSHIPS

5.5 It is proposed that a key objective of partnership scrutiny should focus on providing constructive challenge and an opportunity for learning and self-reflection rather than purely holding to account⁴.

² Annual Improvement Report 2014/15 (incorporating the Corporate Assessment Report 2015), Wales Audit Office December, 2015

³ Circumstances in which the Council would provide an opportunity to a range of organisations or individuals to provide their services for a specific purpose through a competitive process with the Council selecting one provider and confirming the arrangements by agreement

⁴ Guidance for Local Authority Scrutiny Committees on the scrutiny of Public Services Boards (Welsh Government August, 2017)

5.6 Characteristics of effective partnership scrutiny: national research⁵ has identified that partnership scrutiny arrangements are effective when the following characteristics are in place:

- Scrutiny is a “critical friend” for promoting joint working
- Performance monitoring by Members is done as part of their community leadership role (from the citizen’s perspective)
- A means to assess the complexities of partnership working
- Focus on improving partnership arrangements and ensuring the right outcomes for citizens
- Holding Members who sit on key partnerships to account.

POSTION STATEMENT

5.7 Corporate Partnerships Register: the Council maintains a Register of all key partnerships which is reviewed on a regular basis.

5.8 The remit of this Committee extends to local and regional partnership arrangements. Details of Partnerships scrutinised by this Committee during 2017/18 are summarised in **APPENDIX 1**.

5.9 2018/19 Forward Work Programme: the task of scrutinising partnerships needs to be done in a managed way focusing on the key strategic partnerships which enable the Council to deliver on its objectives and priorities. In order to add value, our arrangements for scrutiny of partnerships will need to be timely and proportionate. It is therefore proposed that the forward work programme of this Committee prioritises an appropriate balance of strategic and key operational partnerships to include the following:

Name of Partnership	Lead Officer	Scrutiny Focus	Timescale	General comments
Key Strategic Partnerships				
Public Services Board (PSB)	Chief Executive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Governance arrangements • Wellbeing assessment & plan • Progress on implementation plans 	Initial scrutiny of PSB governance & delivery structure – 13 November, 2018	National expectation set out in Welsh Government guidance ⁶
			Scrutiny of progress on delivery of Wellbeing Plan – 8 March, 2019	
			Scrutiny of PSB Annual Report – June, 2019	
Community Safety Partnership (CSP)	Assistant Chief Executive (Partnership, Community &	To scrutinise the partnership work rather than the work of individual bodies	24 September, 2018	Ensure the Partnership delivers its obligations under Sections 19 & 20,

⁵ Commission on Public Service Governance and Delivery (Welsh Government January, 2014)

⁶ Guidance for Local Authority Scrutiny Committees on the scrutiny of Public Services Boards (August, 2017)

		Service Improvement)	through the CSP Annual Report, by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scrutinising achievements of previous year • Challenge future priorities 		Criminal Justice and Police Act 2006
North Wales Safeguarding Board	Assistant Chief Executive (Governance & Business Process Transformation)		Scrutinise governance arrangements, delivery and performance of regional arrangements	TBC	Social Services & Wellbeing Act 2014
GwE School Improvement Service	Head of Learning		Scrutinise the consortium's Annual Report in order to : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support GwE to develop business plans & ensure plans take account of the needs of local schools • Improve scrutiny of performance management arrangements • Ensure a range of strategies in place to support schools to improve. 	Autumn or 5/2/19	National expectation that local authorities scrutinise regional education consortia
North Wales Partnership Board (Health & Social Services)	Assistant Chief Executive (Governance & Business Process Transformation)		Annual Report of the Regional Partnership Board: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scrutinise achievements of previous year • Challenge priorities for the year to come 	24 September, 2018	Part 9, Social Services & Wellbeing Act 2014
Additional Learning Needs and Inclusion Partnership	Head of Learning		Progress report to scrutinise: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • delivery and performance • priorities for next period 	13 November, 2018 (6 monthly)	Service delivery partnership with Gwynedd Council
Locality partnership working - BCUHB	Assistant Chief Executive (Governance & Business Process Transformation)		Scrutinise local partnership working with Health Board	TBC	Statutory member of the PSB (Wellbeing of Future Generations Act 2015)
North Wales Fire & Rescue Service	Assistant Chief Executive		Scrutinise local partnership working	TBC	Statutory member of the PSB (Wellbeing of

		(Partnership, Community & Service Improvement)	with the Fire & Rescue Service		Future Generations Act 2015)
Natural Resources Wales	Head of Highways, Waste & Property		Scrutinise local partnership working with Natural Resources Wales	TBC	Statutory member of the PSB (Wellbeing of Future Generations Act 2015)
North Wales Police and Crime Commissioner / North Wales Police	Assistant Chief Executive (Partnership, Community & Service Improvement)		Scrutinise local partnership working with North Wales Police	TBC	Police and Crime Commissioner monitors how the the Police and others implement the "Police and Crime Plan 2017-2021" (North Wales)
North Wales Growth Deal	Head of Regulatory and Economic Development		Ensure that the Board is undertaking its role of creating employment opportunities and improving transport links and digital connectivity in North Wales and Isle of Anglesey	TBC	North Wales Councils have formed the North Wales Growth Board to finalise the Growth Deal and manage its delivery once agreed with the two UK and Welsh Governments. The new body is a Local Authority Joint Committee with representatives of key partners.
Other Partnerships					
Communities First	Head of Housing		Scrutinise Annual Report to ensure robust governance arrangements and delivery of projects and programmes by Môn Communities Forward Ltd	19 June, 2018	Môn Communities Forward Ltd is delivering legacy Communities First programmes on behalf of the Council
North Wales Regional Emergency Planning	Head of Democratic Services		Resilience of the regional service to assist the Council in dealing with emergencies as a result of severe weather, transport or industrial accident, water pollution or terrorism	24 September ,2018	Civil Contingencies Act 2004
North Wales Economic Ambition Board	Head of Regulatory and Economic Development		Ensure that the Board is undertaking its role as the Learning and Skills Partnership for North Wales. It is anticipated that the	TBC	National expectation that authorities scrutinise regional partnerships

			Board will have a representative on the Joint Committee implementing the North Wales Growth Bid.		
Medrwn Môn	Assistant Chief Executive (Partnership, Community & Service Improvement)		Annual Report of the organisation to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> scrutinise achievements of previous year challenge priorities for the year to come 	TBC	
Menter Môn	Assistant Chief Executive (Partnership, Community & Service Improvement)		Annual Report of the organisation to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> scrutinise achievements of previous year challenge priorities for the year to come 	TBC	
Cynnal	Head of Learning		Scrutinise performance and value for money	TBC	
Canolfan Gerdd William Mathias	Head of Learning		Scrutinise performance and value for money	In due course	

Next Steps:

It will be necessary to put a framework in place to support the implementation of this revised programme for scrutiny of partnerships, to include:

- A high level action plan to enable the Partnership and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee to prioritise its forward work programme for 2018/19 and beyond
- Member development session on effective partnership scrutiny
- Develop a checklist of key questions for scrutiny Members when scrutinising partnership working
- Periodic updates to Elected Members on partnership scrutiny through monthly Member Briefing Sessions
- Holding Members who sit on key partnerships to account.

6 – Equality Impact Assessment [including impacts on the Welsh Language]

-

7 – Financial Implications

-

8 – Appendices:

1. Schedule of Key Strategic Partnerships monitored during 2017/2018.

9 - Background papers (please contact the author of the Report for any further information):

-

APPENDIX 1

(Schedule of key Strategic Partnerships monitored during 2017/2018)

Communities First Annual Report (27/6/17)

The Communities First Programme has Prosperous Communities, Learning Communities and Healthy Communities as its three key themes. The main focus of the delivery in Anglesey was under the Prosperous and Learning themes with a range of activities concentrating on improving skills and moving those furthest away from the labour market back into work.

In February 2017, the Cabinet Secretary for Communities and Children announced that the Communities First Programme would be phased out by March 2018. Welsh Government will be introducing a Legacy Fund from April 2018 to enable some of the Communities First's most effective projects to continue. The Council, as the Lead Delivery Board (LDB), has a close association with the Communities First Programme and regular monitoring will need to be undertaken to assure support to Communities First and that the programme continues to deliver its vision for the future.

The Committee had the opportunity to question representatives from Mon Communities First Ltd on their current and future plans.

Vibrant and Viable Places Programme (27/6/17)

The Vibrant and Viable Places (VVP) programme is a Welsh Government's urban regeneration framework, which formed the basis for allocating £100m of capital funds in the period April 2014 – March 2017. All local authorities in Wales were invited to submit outline proposals for the VVP grant and Holyhead was successful with a grant allocation of £7.49m in capital funding over three years.

The programme is based on taking needs and opportunity under three themes that reflected Welsh Government policy priorities i.e., Homes, Place and People. Welsh Government has indicated informally that a new urban regeneration programme is likely to take place.

The Committee had an opportunity to question allocation of funding, criteria requirements and whether other towns on Anglesey could benefit from any future urban regeneration programme.

Annual Report of the Community Safety Partnership (9/10/17)

The Community Safety Partnership is required to present an overview of its activities to this Committee annually. This ensures that the Partnership delivers its obligations in accordance with Sections 19 and 20 of the Criminal Justice and Police Act 2006. There is a statutory duty on Local Authorities in accordance with the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, and subsequent amendments because of the Police and Criminal Justice Act 2002 and 2006, to work in partnership with the Police, Health Service, Probation Service and the Fire and Rescue Service, to address the local community safety agenda. The Partnership has a duty to deal with :

- Crime and Disorder
- Substance Misuse
- Reducing reoffending
- Delivering a strategic assessment to identify priorities (work that is now undertaken on a regional basis)
- Putting plans in place to deal with these priorities (a plan now exists on a regional and local basis)

The Committee had the opportunity to scrutinise the data and information presented together with the priorities and future direction of the Community Safety Partnership.

Public Services Board (9/10/17, 4/11/17 and 8/3/18)

The Anglesey Public Services Board was established in accordance with the requirements of the Wellbeing of Future Generation (Wales) Act 2015. It was agreed to collaborate with the Gwynedd Public Services Board. The main focus of the work of the Anglesey and Gwynedd Public Service Board between April 2017 and May 2018 was to produce an Assessment of Well-being for both counties and to the production of a Well-being Plan that needed to be published by the Public Services Board in May 2018.

The Public Services Board submitted reports to the Committee on 9 /10/17 and 14/11/17. On 8th March 2018 the Committee had an opportunity to scrutinise the draft Gwynedd and Anglesey Well-being Plan. Following robust questioning by Members the Committee resolved to approve the draft Plan and authorise the Chair of the Committee to submit its formal response to the PSB on the draft plan.

GwE (6/2/18)

GwE is the school effectiveness and improvement service for North Wales. It is one of four regional education consortia which aims to add value to what local authorities can achieve in respect of school improvement, allowing them to share good practice, knowledge and skills, magnify local strengths and build capacity. The regional consortia are a vital and key element of the national implementation plan for education.

The GwE Managing Director gave a detailed report on the Business Plan Priorities for 2017/18, together with an overview on educational standards across North Wales (2015/16). He said that GwE is providing a range of professional learning programmes for practitioners ranging from Higher Level Teaching Assistants to experienced Head Teachers.

The Committee had an opportunity to questions GwE's Managing Director and advisors on School performance on the Island and challenges facing the Island's schools.

Additional Learning Needs Partnership – Môn and Gwynedd (10/4/18)

In September 2017, the Isle of Anglesey County Council and Gwynedd Council and established an Additional Learning Needs and Inclusion Service for both Council's. The Joint service created an integrated team of specialists to support children and young people with additional learning and inclusion across both authorities.

A report was submitted by the Head of Service (Learning) and officers from the Additional Learning Needs and Inclusion Service to the Committee on the 10 April 2018, in order to provide an update to Members on current position and performance of the joint service. A progress report will be submitted to the Partnership and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee every six months so that progress on the joint service can be monitored.