

<b>ISLE OF ANGLESEY COUNTY COUNCIL</b>	
MEETING :	County Council
DATE:	14 September 2010
TITLE OF THE REPORT :	Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2009-2010
DATE OF REPORT:	6 September 2010
RECOMMENDATION:	To note its contents and agree to the recommendations contained in paragraph 8 of this report
REPORT BY	Interim Head of Scrutiny and Scrutiny Officer on behalf of Director of Legal and Committee Services

## **1 INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 Welcome to the Isle of Anglesey County Council Annual Report that sets out the work done by the Overview and Scrutiny Committees during 2009-2010. Under Article 6 of the Council's Constitution the Overview and Scrutiny Committees must report annually to full Council on their work.
- 1.2 The report summarises the matters between the Council's Annual Meetings on the 5 May 2009 and 11 May 2010. Throughout this period we have been fortunate to have received contributions from members, officers and would like to thank everyone for their contribution.
- 1.3 The five Chairpersons, of the newly established Scrutiny Committees, have contributed to the report and a summary of their intent, for the forthcoming year, is included in the attached **APPENDIX**.

## **2 WHAT IS OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY**

- 2.1 The Local Government Act 2000 ("the Act") replaced traditional committee based decision making with an Executive, which acting collectively or individually, make most decisions in line with Council approved policy.
- 2.2 The full Council elects a Leader at the Isle of Anglesey County Council. The Leader then selects an Executive from members of the Council to include the appointment of a Deputy Leader. A member of an Overview and Scrutiny Committee can not be a member of the Executive.
- 2.3 Overview and Scrutiny is part of the way in which Local Government in Wales operates. As well as allowing the establishment of an Executive the Act required the establishment of one or more Overview and Scrutiny Committees to hold those with Executive powers to account, and at the same time, play an important role in improving the Council through policy development and review.

### **3 WHAT ARE THE KEY FUNCTIONS OF OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY**

3.1 The five key functions for Overview and Scrutiny in the Council :

- Holding the Executive to Account
- Policy Review
- Policy Development
- Improvement / Performance Monitoring
- Examine matters of wide public interest and work of other public bodies in the area

3.2 These functions are carried out either by looking at individual decisions, whole policies or strategies. Issues can be looked at in depth or be looked at over one meeting. Overview and Scrutiny can not make decisions but they can make recommendations to the Executive or to the Council (e.g. if the recommendation would require a departure from or a change to the agreed budget and policy framework). This is how Overview and Scrutiny is part of the decision making in Local Government.

3.3 As well as scrutinising Executive decisions (and decisions delegated to the Leader, Portfolio members and Officers by the Executive) the Overview and Scrutiny Committees also have the power to examine matters of wide public interest and work of other public bodies in the area. This can be any public, private or local organisations but should be an issue that affects the authority's area or its inhabitants. However it should be borne in mind that they can not compel people from other organisations to cooperate.

### **4 OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY AT THE COUNCIL BETWEEN 5 MAY 2009 TO 11 MAY 2010**

4.1 Between the 5 May 2009 and the 11 May 2010 the Isle of Anglesey County Council had three Committees that were tasked with delivering Overview and Scrutiny. The three Committees were:

1. Principal Scrutiny Committee;
2. Development, Infrastructure and Resources Policy Overview Committee;
3. Education, Health and Welfare Policy Overview Committee.

4.2 The functions were separated to try and ensure that both aspects of 'Overview' and 'Scrutiny' were carried out.

- 4.3 The primary role of the two policy overview committees were to assist in policy development following reference from the Executive, undertaking reviews on the effectiveness of current policies and to act as a sounding board on significant issues.
- 4.4 The primary role of the Principal Scrutiny Committee was to hold decision takers to account, performance monitoring and scrutinise the work of other organisations affecting people living in Anglesey.
- 4.5 Each Committee reflected the political balance of the Council but a member of an Overview and Scrutiny Committee could not be a member of the Executive.
- 4.6 The Overview and Scrutiny committees had five timetabled meetings but they could call extra meetings. The Chairperson, with the assistance of the Vice-Chairperson, developed the Committees work programmes and prior to each meeting would discuss the draft agenda.
- 4.7 Prior to committee meetings there was an agenda planning meeting to consider a draft agenda and agree any changes. Members, officers and any other interested person could bring possible items to the attention of the Chairperson or Vice-Chairperson. Items could also be brought direct to the attention of the Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson or the Scrutiny Officer.
- 4.8 Each Committee could establish its own programme of work and this allowed members to have a greater say in Council matters by holding meetings of local concern.
- 4.9 Any member of the Council was entitled to give notice to the Managing Director that he /she wished for an item relevant to the functions of the Committee to be included on the agenda for the next available meeting of the Committee. On receipt of such a request the Managing Director would ensure that it was included on the next available agenda. The member giving notice with regard to a particular agenda item would be entitled to speak at the Committee meeting when that particular item was considered.
- 4.10 The Committees also responded, as soon as their work programme permitted, to requests from the Council and if it considered it appropriate the Executive to review particular areas of Council activity. Where they did so, the Committees reported their findings and any recommendations back to the Executive and/or Council.

4.11 The Principal Scrutiny Committee's membership between May 2009 and May 2010 was as follows:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Councillor Aled Morris Jones (Chairperson)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Councillor Eric Jones (Vice-Chairperson)</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Councillor Gwilym O Jones</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Councillor Eric Roberts</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Councillor Selwyn Williams</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Councillor Hywel Eifion Jones</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Councillor Cliff Everett</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Councillor Gareth Winston Roberts OBE</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Councillor Rhian Medi</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Councillor J P Williams</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Co-opted members with a right to vote when dealing with educational matters: Rev Robert Townsend Mr Keith Roberts.</li> </ul>	

4.12 The items considered by the Principal Scrutiny Committee between May 2009 to May 2010 were as follows:

<b>DATE OF COMMITTEE MEETING</b>	<b>ISSUE (S) CONSIDERED</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 6 May 2009</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Election of Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 24 June 2009</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Welsh Church Act Fund.</li> <li>• Performance Monitoring (report on progress).</li> <li>• Scrutiny Development Fund.</li> <li>• Job Evaluation.</li> <li>• Budget Outlook.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 28 July 2009</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Welsh Church Act Fund.</li> <li>• Scrutiny Development Fund.</li> <li>• Scrutiny Conference.</li> <li>• Budget Outlook.</li> <li>• Funding Code of Practice.</li> <li>• I.C.T Suite.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 7 August 2009</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Call-in of Executive decision dated 21 July 2009 in respect of Indoor Leisure Centres Improvement Strategy.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 19 August 2009</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Call-in of Portfolio Holder decision dated 5 August 2009 in respect of Additional Retail Work ( Ty Mawr).</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 30 September 2009</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Welsh Church Act Fund.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scrutiny Development Fund.</li> <li>• Scrutiny Conference.</li> <li>• Matters referred back to the Principal Scrutiny Committee from the Executive.</li> <li>• Fleet Management.</li> <li>• Job Evaluation.</li> <li>• The County Council's Annual Monitoring Report to the Welsh Language Board for the period 2008-2009 on the implementation of its Welsh Language Scheme.</li> <li>• Letter from Councillor Peter Rogers.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 12 October 2009</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Annual Reassessment of Risk and Improvement Plan 2009-2010.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 20 October 2009</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Call-in of Executive decision dated 6 October 2009 in respect of budget procedure rules and ring fencing of smallholding budget.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3 December 2009</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Presentation by WLGA on Finance.</li> <li>• Executive decision on the Welsh Church Act Fund.</li> <li>• Declaration of Interest.</li> <li>• Developing the Council's Medium Term Policies.</li> <li>• Fleet Management.</li> <li>• Job Evaluation.</li> <li>• Annual Treasury Management 2008/2009.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 21 December 2010</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Call-in of Executive decision dated 30 November 2009 in respect of primary school rationalisation programme.</li> <li>• Call-in of Executive decision dated 1 December 2009 November in respect of Lease of the Warden's House to Geo Mon, Breakwater Country Park, Holyhead.</li> <li>•</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 4 February 2010</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Crime and Disorder (Update).</li> <li>• Looking to the Future: Consultation on Council Priorities, Medium Term</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Financial Strategy and Budget Proposals for 2010-2011.</li> <li>Local Government Measures 2009.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8 April 2010</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Crime and Disorder Protocol.</li> <li>Fleet Management</li> <li>Overview and Scrutiny Workshops.</li> </ul>

4.13 **The** Education, Health and Welfare Policy Overview Committee's membership between May 2009 and May 2010 was as follows:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Councillor Fflur Hughes ( Chairperson)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Councillor Selwyn Williams ( Vice-Chairperson)</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Councillor Jim Evans</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Councillor Kenneth P Hughes</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Councillor Gwilym O Jones</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Councillor O Glyn Jones</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Councillor John Victor Owen</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Councillor Eric Roberts</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Councillor Lewis Davies</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Councillor Trefor Lloyd Hughes</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Councillor Dylan Jones</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Councillor Raymond Jones</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Councillor Derlwyn Hughes</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Councillor Robert Llewelyn Jones</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Councillor Hefin Thomas</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Co-opted members with a right to vote when dealing with educational matters: Rev Robert Townsend Mr Keith Roberts</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Co- opted member with no voting rights: Mr Dafydd Evans</li> </ul>	

4.14 The items considered by the Education, Health and Welfare Policy Overview Committee between May 2009 and May 2010 were as follows:

<b>DATE OF COMMITTEE MEETING</b>	<b>ISSUE (S)CONSIDERED</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6 May 2009</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Election of Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>22 June 2009</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Public Libraries in Wales: Achieving Higher Standards- Framework for Measuring and Assessing the Performance of Public Libraries in Wales April 2008-2011</li> <li>School Meals Contract</li> <li>Sports Development</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Committee Work programme</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 14 September 2009</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Re-organisation of Schools Strategy</li> <li>• Health Impact Assessment Tool</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 10 November 2009</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Private Sector Housing Condition Survey 2008</li> <li>• Annual Report on the Education Service 2009</li> <li>• School Meals Contract</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 15 December 2009</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reporting Performance, Improvement and Scrutiny by the Statutory Director of Social Services</li> <li>• Museums, Culture and Archives Service Annual Report</li> <li>• Gwynedd and Anglesey Local Child Protection Board</li> <li>• Estyn Re-Inspection report on Môn Training together with Action Plan</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 February 2010</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Looking to the Future: Consultation on Council Priorities , Medium Term Financial Strategy and Budget Proposals for 2010-2011</li> <li>• Safeguarding Report - Children's Services</li> <li>• Reporting on Performance, Improvement and Scrutiny by the Statutory Director of Social Services</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 18 February 2010</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• School Meals Contract</li> <li>• Reporting on Performance, Improvement and Scrutiny by the Statutory Director of Social Services</li> <li>• Welsh Assembly Government – The Effects of Recent Migration on Local Authorities Allocation of Housing and Actions under Homelessness Legislation.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 12 March 2010</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Anglesey Health Alliance</li> <li>• Estyn Inspection of the Quality of the Youth Support Services</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 20 April 2010</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cycle to Work Scheme</li> <li>• Reporting on Performance,</li> </ul>

	<p>Improvement and Scrutiny by the Statutory Director of Social Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Estyn Inspection- Report on Quality ( The Education Service)</li> </ul>
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4.15 The Development, Infrastructure and Resources Policy Overview Committee's membership between May 2009 and May 2010 was as follows:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Councillor R L Owen ( Chairperson )</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Councillor Trefor Lloyd Hughes( Vice-Chairperson )</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Councillor Barrie Durkin</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Councillor Jim Evans</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Councillor Kenneth P Hughes</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Councillor Eric Jones</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Councillor Eric Roberts</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Councillor Elwyn Schofield</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lewis Davies</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Councillor John Penri Williams</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Councillor Raymond Jones</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Councillor J Arwel Roberts</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Councillor W T Hughes</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Councillor Keith Evans</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Councillor Peter Rogers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Co-opted Member with no voting rights: Mr Dennis Evans</li> </ul>

4.16 The items considered by the Development, Infrastructure and resources Policy Overview Committee between May 2009 and May 2010 were as follows :

<b>DATE OF COMMITTEE MEETING</b>	<b>ISSUE (S) CONSIDERED</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 6 May 2009</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Election of Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 18 June 2009</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Beaumaris Marina Update</li> <li>• North Wales Waste Treatment Project</li> <li>• Highways and Transportation Service's outputs for 2008/2009 and Targets for 2009/2010</li> <li>• Committee Work Programme</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 17 September 2009</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Island Economy Update</li> <li>• Beaumaris Marina Update</li> <li>• Regional Transport Plan</li> <li>• Street Lighting Policy</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 25 November 2009</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Waste Management</li> <li>• Draft Planning Guidelines</li> </ul>



	regarding i) Lighting ii) Design and Access Statements
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 26 January 2010</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• North Wales Residual Waste Treatment Partnership</li> <li>• Looking to the Future: Consultation on Council Priorities , Medium Term Financial Strategy and Budget Proposals for 2010-2011</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 17 February 2010</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• North Wales Residual Waste Treatment Partnership</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 31 March 2010</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Energy Island</li> </ul>

4.17 The Committees considered numerous items during this period and copies of the minutes can be accessed at the Council Minutes Library at (see “popular pages” section at right hand pane of Council’s home page):

[.anglesey.gov.uk](http://www.anglesey.gov.uk)

## 5 OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY FROM THE 11 MAY 2010

5.1 Following on from the Corporate Governance Inspection Report steps were taken to improve scrutiny at the Council. The Council asked for the Welsh Local Government’s Association (W.L.G.A) support to develop and support its scrutiny function and requested it to develop recommendations for improving scrutiny. During February 2010 the WLGA published a “**Review of Scrutiny Arrangements in Anglesey**” and the following recommendations were made:

- 1) The role of Overview and Scrutiny should be clearly agreed, understood and recognised by members and officers.
- 2) Overview and Scrutiny committee structures should be reviewed.
- 3) Overview / Scrutiny committees need to develop an appropriate forward work programme.
- 4) The way in which Overview/Scrutiny committees approach items should be revised.
- 5) The ability of Overview/Scrutiny to provide effective and constructive challenge should be strengthened.
- 6) The officer support for Overview/ Scrutiny committees should be strengthened.
- 7) The Overview and Scrutiny function needs to be subject to ongoing review to ensure that lessons are learned both from outside and within the organisations and that modifications are made to the function as a result.
- 8) The role of elected members is crucial in developing the Overview and Scrutiny function.

5.2 The Minister addressed the Council on 24<sup>th</sup> February and wrote a letter to the Leader on the 4<sup>th</sup> of March enclosing the document “Actions for Anglesey County Council” which included a reference to Overview and

Scrutiny - "There should be a fundamental restructuring of Overview and Scrutiny to ensure the Council has in place adequate provision for scrutinising the performance of its service areas. This should include:-

- An increase in the number of committees and frequency of meetings;
- Expansion of officer support (both directly and from senior management generally);
- An end to the synthetic and confusing division between Overview and Scrutiny;
- Giving all committees expanded powers of cooption; and
- An in-depth scrutiny case study of children's services as a matter of priority, as we have previously recommended"

5.3 On the 11 May a report on Overview and Scrutiny was submitted to the full Council and it was agreed that a new scrutiny structure would be put in place to include the establishment of five Overview and Scrutiny committees to be known as:

- i. Corporate Scrutiny Committee
- ii. Housing and Social Services Scrutiny Committee
- iii. Education and Leisure Scrutiny Committee
- iv. Environment and Technical Services Scrutiny Committee
- v. Economic Development, Tourism and Property Scrutiny Committee

5.4 The new structure should make it easier for members to pick topics for scrutiny that are of value and interest to the people of Anglesey and improve the link between the scrutiny process and the Executive. The Scrutiny Committees terms of reference extend to cover the following:

NAME OF COMMITTEE	TERMS OF REFERENCE
<p>1) CORPORATE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE ( 12 Members)</p> <p>Plus Co-opted members ( with a right to vote )when dealing with education matters</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Best use of staff, finance and property</li> <li>- Corporate policy</li> <li>- Community strategy</li> <li>- Complaints</li> <li>- Corporate budget process and monitoring</li> <li>- Financial and administrative systems</li> <li>- Health and Safety</li> <li>- ICT</li> <li>- Improvement Plan and monitoring</li> <li>- Internal support services</li> <li>- Language Scheme</li> <li>- Outcome</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>agreements.</li> <li>– Performance monitoring</li> <li>– Power to call-in</li> <li>– Service innovation and collaboration</li> <li>– Strategic partnership governance</li> <li>– Workforce skills</li> </ul>
<p>2) HOUSING AND SOCIAL SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE ( 10 Members)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Anti-poverty</li> <li>– Benefits</li> <li>– Care and personal support service</li> <li>– Community regeneration</li> <li>– Disadvantaged persons</li> <li>– Equality of opportunity</li> <li>– Healthy living</li> <li>– Housing</li> <li>– J.E. O’Toole Centre</li> <li>– Monitoring Suite (Gofal Môn and CCTV)</li> <li>– Protection of vulnerable people</li> <li>– Quality of life</li> <li>– Social Services</li> </ul>
<p>3) EDUCATION AND LEISURE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE ( 10 Members)</p> <p>PLUS Church and parent governor representatives in accordance with paragraph 8-11 of Schedule 1 to the Local Government Act 2000</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Archive, library and museums</li> <li>– Culture</li> <li>– Education</li> <li>– Lifelong Learning</li> <li>– Môn Training</li> <li>– Sports and leisure facilities</li> <li>– Youth and Community Services</li> </ul>
<p>4) ENVIRONMENT AND TECHNICAL SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE ( 10 Members)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Crime Prevention and statutory Crime and Disorder Scrutiny Committee</li> <li>– Emergency Planning</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Environmental Health</li> <li>- Environmental Stewardship</li> <li>- Highways (including roads, streets, bridges, car parks, public access)</li> <li>- Land Use Planning</li> <li>- Licensing</li> <li>- Registration of Births, Marriages and Deaths</li> <li>- Sea Defence and Maritime</li> <li>- Sustainability</li> <li>- Trading Standards</li> <li>- Transportation</li> <li>- Waste Management and Recycling</li> </ul>
<p>5) ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, TOURISM AND PROPERTY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE ( 10 Members)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Indigenous and local businesses</li> <li>- Infrastructure re: economic regeneration funding</li> <li>- Inward investment</li> <li>- Promotion of economic regeneration</li> <li>- Property and Asset management</li> <li>- Tourism</li> <li>- Workforce skills (Island wide)</li> </ul>

5.5 Within their terms of reference the Scrutiny Committees will:

- Review and/or scrutinise decisions made or actions taken in connection with the discharge of any of the Council’s functions;
- Make reports and/or recommendations to the full Council and/or the Executive and/or any Joint or Area Committee in connection with the discharge of any functions;
- Consider any matter affecting the area or its inhabitants;
- Exercise the right to call-in, for reconsideration, decisions made but not yet implemented by the Executive and/or any Area Committees [ **N.B Please note that the power to call - in a decision is limited to the**

**Corporate Scrutiny Committee and should be used sparingly as it can delay implementation of policy ] ; and**

- Carry out reviews under the Welsh Programme for Improvement of the functions within its area of activity and report via the Executive to the Council.

5.6 With regard to its policy development and review role the Scrutiny Committees may:

- Assist the Council and the Executive in the development of its budget and policy framework by in-depth analysis of policy issues;
- Conduct research, community and other consultation in the analysis of policy issues and possible options;
- Consider and implement mechanisms to encourage and enhance community participation in the development of policy options;
- Question members of the Executive and/or committees and Chief Officers about their views on issues and proposals affecting the area; and
- Liaise with other external organisations operating in the area, whether national, regional or local, to ensure that the interests of local people are enhanced by collaborative working.

5.7 With regard to its scrutiny role the Scrutiny Committees may:

- Review and scrutinise the decisions made by and performance of the Executive and/or Committees and Council Officers both in relation to individual decisions and over time;
- Review and scrutinise the performance of the Council in relation to its policy objectives, performance targets and/or particular service areas;
- Question members of the Executive and/or Committees and Chief Officers about their decisions and performance, whether generally in comparison with service plans and targets over a period of time, or in relation to particular decisions, initiatives or projects;
- Make recommendations to the Executive and/or appropriate Committee and/or Council arising from the outcome of the scrutiny process;
- Review and scrutinise the performance of other public bodies in the area and invite reports from them by requesting them to address the Scrutiny Committee and local people about their activities and performance; and
- Question and gather evidence from any person (with his/her consent).

- 5.8 On the 13 July 2010 the following Chairs and Vice Chairs of the five Scrutiny Committees were elected:

<b>COMMITTEE</b>	<b>CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR</b>
Corporate Scrutiny Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chair: Councillor Ieuan Williams</li> <li>• Vice-Chair: Councillor Dylan Jones</li> </ul>
Housing and Social Services Scrutiny Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chair: Councillor Fflur Hughes</li> <li>• Vice-Chair: Councillor Glyn Jones</li> </ul>
Education and Leisure Scrutiny Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chair: Councillor Derlwyn Hughes</li> <li>• Vice-Chair: Councillor Trefor LI Hughes</li> </ul>
Environment and Technical Services Scrutiny Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chair: Councillor R L Owen</li> <li>• Vice-Chair: Councillor Selwyn Williams</li> </ul>
Economic Development, Tourism and Property Scrutiny Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chair: Councillor J V Owen</li> <li>• Vice-Chair: Councillor John Penri Williams</li> </ul>

- 5.9 The effectiveness of Scrutiny Committees can depend on a number of factors such as insufficient or inappropriate officer support, the impact of party/group politics and a poor executive response to scrutiny. The Council is looking to address these weaknesses and a Scrutiny Manager has been appointed and one more additional scrutiny support officer is to be appointed.

- 5.10 Since May 2010 the Council has been fortunate to have received input and guidance from Frances Taylor on how to develop the Scrutiny function. Frances is an expert facilitator and presenter and has worked for a variety of organisations within both the public and private sector. She has undertaken the role of Interim Head of Scrutiny and has facilitated the following member training and workshops:

<b>DATE</b>	<b>DETAILS</b>
27 May 2010	Steering Group of Chairs and Vice-Chairs meeting.
2 June 2010	Steering Group of Chairs and Vice-Chairs meeting.
3 June 2010	Presentation to Original Independents Group members on Overview and Scrutiny together with opportunity for members to ask questions and suggest topics for scrutiny.
16 June 2010	Steering Group of Chairs and Vice-Chairs meeting.

13 July 2010	Presentation to Executive on Overview and Scrutiny together with opportunity to ask questions and suggest topics for scrutiny.
28 July 2010	Full Day Workshop for Non-Executive Members, Executive Members and Officers on Overview and Scrutiny together with opportunity to ask questions and suggest topics for scrutiny
29 July 2010	Half Day Workshop for Chairs and Vice-Chairs of Scrutiny Committees and officers to contribute to committee work programmes.

5.11 In terms of raising the understanding of officers concerning the Scrutiny function, the interim Head of Scrutiny has presented the main roles of Scrutiny at CMT on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> May and lead two informal sessions for staff to stimulate interest in the advertised posts for Scrutiny and to enable the cascading of information on Scrutiny across the council.

5.12 The interim Head of Scrutiny has met with with the Scrutiny manager at Gwynedd council with a view to seeking support from Gwynedd for joint working both in terms of officer support and where topics for in-depth Scrutiny review are identified that are the same or similar and the work load for which could therefore be usefully shared. These discussions need to be continued over the next few weeks in order to maximise regional resources and to avoid unnecessary duplication of Scrutiny work.

5.13 On the 12 July 2010 a measure was introduced in the National Assembly for Wales proposing changes to the way scrutiny operates in Wales. The proposed measure is now to proceed through various stages at the National Assembly before receiving Royal Approval probably during 2011 ( The day of implementation of the Measure is not known at this time ). The scrutiny provisions are concentrated in Part 6 of the measure but the following are its key provisions:

- Enable two or more local authorities to form joint overview and scrutiny committees.
- Enable local authorities to have powers to co-opt persons who are non-councillors to their scrutiny committees and allow them voting rights.
- Enable scrutiny committees to require information and responses from organisations outside the council that provide services to the public in their area, and to require representatives of such organisations to attend committee meetings if so required.
- Place a duty on local authority scrutiny committees to scrutinise services delivered by providers of public services in their area.
- Discourage political groups from imposing whipping procedures on members of scrutiny committees.
- Provide that local authorities allocate appointments to chairs of scrutiny committees in proportion to political balance of the council.
- Require local authorities to establish an audit committee to monitor their financial affairs

- Require scrutiny committees to publish forward plans of their scrutiny work programme
- Require scrutiny committees to consult electors on major issues of policy.
- Introduce “councillor calls for action”, enabling local councillors and their electors to ensure a response from their council leadership to issues of local importance.

## 6 PROGRESS

Following the numbers of the itemised recommendations made by WLGA (**see 5.1**), progress has been made as follows:

- 6.1 The role of Overview and Scrutiny is more clearly understood by some officers and members - in particular those who have attended the ‘raising awareness’ sessions over May, June and July. The council newsletter should be fully utilised over the next few months to explain the role more fully and to feature articles concerning the work of the five Scrutiny Committees. A series of articles over the next 12 months will, for this purpose, be planned with the Communications unit.
- 6.2 The Overview and Scrutiny Committees have been reviewed as detailed at paragraph 5.1.
- 6.3 Careful development of work programmes has been under-taken via informal meetings with the chairs and vice-chairs of the 5 Scrutiny Committees, consultation with the Interim Managing Director, the Head of Policy, the Head of Legal Services/Monitoring Officer, corporate directors and other key officers from departments via meetings and e-mail correspondence. Consideration of the Council’s Looking to the future document (Consultation on Council priorities, medium term financial strategy and budget proposals for 2010/11)) and the Community Plan were also taken into account as well as the Key Statistics document May 2010 (National Assembly for Wales).
- 6.4 The ways in which Scrutiny Committees identify and prioritise items for and then agree the work programme have been supported by the use of prioritisation processes and templates. Scoping templates have also been introduced as a way of ensuring proper planning of in-depth Scrutiny work. The Housing and Social Services Scrutiny Committee has already piloted these processes which were also ‘tested out’ at the July workshops for members and officers.
- 6.5 The ability of Scrutiny to provide effective and constructive challenge has been encouraged via discussions with and between Non-Executive and Executive Members concerning the role of Scrutiny in being the ‘constructive and critical friend’. A standard report template has been introduced for officers who are required to provide reports for Scrutiny in order to ensure clarity, brevity and clear explanations about the issues for Scrutiny in each area of work identified.
- The work undertaken in recent weeks by the Scrutiny panel which has continued on from the previous Scrutiny committee structure and now emanates from the Housing and Social Services Scrutiny committee, is of particular interest and importance in that members of the committee







have worked regularly and closely with the relevant Head of Service and other officers from the department to develop a proper Scrutiny process which can monitor the progress, spend and performance of the department. It is hoped that, building on these efforts, some more in-depth Scrutiny work concerning children and older people will now develop.

- 6.6 Officer support for Scrutiny has been strengthened by the appointment of a Scrutiny manager. Recruitment is underway for one additional Scrutiny Support officer. A new Scrutiny Office will be in place on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the Council Office during September 2010.
- 6.7 Ongoing review of the Scrutiny function will be carried out via informal meetings at the end of each formal Scrutiny Committee where members and officers can discuss the strengths and weaknesses (and how to overcome these) identified at the formal committee meetings. Members and officers are scheduled to attend 'lessons learned' sessions with other neighbouring authorities. It is proposed that a half day session should be held once a year to review overall progress.
- 6.8 The role of elected members in developing effective Scrutiny will continue to be developed via informal development sessions and the provision of accurate and timely information for members to use as part of their resource. Requests have gone to chairs for their early contribution to Scrutiny over the summer period in terms of work relevant to the draft work programmes and an introductory paragraph for insertion into this Annual report.

## 7 HOW TO FIND OUT MORE?

- 7.1 To find out more about Overview and Scrutiny, or to make any comments, Contact details as below:

<p>Frances Taylor Interim Head of Scrutiny Isle of Anglesey County Council Council Offices LLangefni Anglesey LL77 7TW</p> <p> ( 01248)752119  <a href="mailto:@anglesey.gov.uk">@anglesey.gov.uk</a></p>	<p>Geraint Wyn Roberts Scrutiny Officer Isle of Anglesey County Council Council Offices LLangefni Anglesey LL77 7TW</p> <p> ( 01248)752039  <a href="mailto:@anglesey.gov.uk">@anglesey.gov.uk</a></p>
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## 8 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 8.1 A steering group of Scrutiny Chairs and Vice-Chairs needs to be re-convened, a clear remit for the group identified and a process agreed for chairing the group.

- 8.2 A “Scrutiny Member Champion” should be nominated from the Executive to support the raising of the profile of Scrutiny across the Council and to increase communications in particular between Executive and Non-Executive Members.
- 8.3 A research budget of £5,000 should be identified and allocated to Scrutiny Committees to strengthen Scrutiny’s capacity in providing expert research and advice. Allocation of this budget would be determined by the Scrutiny Steering Group.
- 8.4 A Link officer from each department should be identified and nominated by all Corporate Directors as the pivotal point for communication for non-executive members and Scrutiny officers, to provide:
- rapid sign-posting to relevant departmental areas
  - key information and existing reports concerning service areas
  - nominations for additional, relevant, departmental officer support for Scrutiny reviews
  - external contacts and information resources
- 8.5 A 12 month member and officer development programme to support the continuing development of Scrutiny should be worked up by the Interim Head of Scrutiny and the Training Manager based on the identification of member and officer feedback and training needs, new government legislation and good practice nationally.
- 8.6 A Scrutiny Communications Plan should be established with the support of the Communications unit to raise the profile and increase awareness of Scrutiny across Anglesey.
- 8.7 Agreement should be given to updating the look of future Scrutiny Annual Reports following the good examples nationally (Cumbria County Council, Sandwell Borough council etc.) and, as an initial step, to obtain advice and guidance from the Council’s Graphic Unit on the matter.
- 8.8 A new, integrated process for scrutiny of the annual council budget needs to be discussed and defined by an informal member working group in conjunction with the Finance and ICT corporate director.

DATED: 6 September 2010

## APPENDIX

**Councillor Ieuan Williams ( Chairperson of the Corporate Scrutiny Committee)**

The Council faces two main challenges: making a sustainable recovery from the Corporate Governance Inspection and responding to the cuts in local government funding.

A major part of the recovery work is improving the Corporate Management of the Council. The work required to do this is highlighted in the 2009 / 2010 Improvement plan and the 2010/11 Corporate Business Plan. Over the next twelve months the Corporate Scrutiny Committee will be looking at the major risks identified in the first plan to see if they are been addressed effectively as many of them have been re-appearing in the report year after year. The Committee will also be scrutinising the

plans in the new forward looking Corporate Plan to assess whether they are being driven forward or not.

The Corporate plan mentions the Council's Affordable Priorities Programme, my understanding of the programme is that it is prioritised so that service reduction is the final priority. Initially the Council will work to:

- Make efficiency savings through better housekeeping
- Look for savings through partnership working and collaboration
- Concentrating on what has to be done rather than what is discretionary
- Modernising the way we work

The Corporate Scrutiny Committee will be looking at the Affordable Priorities Programme to ensure that all savings that are possible within the above bullet points are achieved before reductions in service are considered.

**Councillor J.V.Owen ( Chairperson Economic Development, Tourism and Property Scrutiny Committee)**

The Isle of Anglesey County Council is currently taking forward a body of work with significant potential to positively impact the Island's economy. I have sought to identify the main areas of the Council's work in this area that would benefit from constructive scrutiny. It is my view that the work of the Council in relation to the economy and tourism can be rationalised under four main headings.

Energy Island

- Key milestones and critical points for delivering the energy island (this would form the basis of a more focused scrutiny agenda)

Convergence Funding

- The amount of European Convergence funding that has been applied for and the amount successfully received.
- The sources of the match funding used to apply for convergence funding
- The number of projects successfully completed to date delivered with convergence funding
- The number of projects currently being delivered with convergence funding
- The aggregate impact of these projects in terms of, but not limited to:
  - o Number of jobs created
  - o Number of jobs safeguarded
  - o Number of companies assisted
  - o Physical improvements to towns and rural areas
  - o Any other relevant information

Small and Medium Sized Enterprise Support

- Details of the support currently available for Small and Medium Sized Enterprise
- Details on the number of SMEs that have benefitted from this support

Cruise Ships

The recent visit to Holyhead by major cruise lines was very successful and I would like to consider what steps could be taken to increase the number of such visits further such as :

- An overview of the benefits that cruise ships bring to the island
- An overview of the Council's proposed actions to increase the number of cruise ships
  - An overview of any infrastructure improvements necessary to increase the number of cruise ships

- An overview of any current marketing and branding exercises that have been undertaken by the Council to improve the attractiveness of Anglesey as a destination for cruise ships (which-may be part of a wider programme of activities).

Based on the information provided we envisage the development of a more focused programme of scrutiny to assist with the delivery of key initiatives and progress the economy of Anglesey.

**Councillor Derlwyn Hughes ( Chairperson of the Education and Leisure Scrutiny Committee)**

The main aim is to ensure that the Education and Leisure Scrutiny Committee examines and questions Executive decisions and policies, scrutinises the quality of services and checks on service performance promoting open and transparent decision making and democratic accountability in Anglesey'

As well as *holding the Executive to account* by questioning the way in which decisions are implemented, the aim is to be actively involved in *Policy Development and Review* at the earliest possible stage acting as a 'critical friend' to challenge and influence the development of policies in an inclusive manner that involves partners and other interested parties.

The Committee will review *performance management* ensuring that members can influence and improve the Council's performance and help drive improvements to service, whilst another important area will be *external scrutiny* of local services provided by outside bodies that impact on residents, in particular children and young people.

Topics under scrutiny will include:

- monitoring the achievements of our County's pupils
- reviewing progress on rationalisation of our education provision
- monitor the activities and provision of our Culture and Leisure Services
- regular monitoring of the Youth Service with a view to an enhanced service comparable with other authorities meeting the aspirations of our young people
- monitor costs of providing and meeting the requirement of a Special Educational Needs service on Anglesey.

**Councillor R.L. Owen ( Chairperson of Environment and Technical Services Scrutiny Committee )**

The Development, Infrastructure and Resources Policy Overview Committee focused on a range of key issues, during 2009-2010, to include such matters as waste management, contributing to development of planning guidelines, updates regarding the Island's economy and ongoing work in respect of implementing the Energy

Island Project. As I have the Privilege of also Chairing the newly established Environment and Technical Services Scrutiny Committee I aim to build on the good work already undertaken by the former Committee.

**Councillor Fflur Hughes ( Chairperson of the Housing and Social Services Scrutiny Committee )**

The status of Scrutiny Committees has improved significantly in the County Council and the period of the “quiet backbencher” has come to an end. Our responsibility, to scrutinise decisions and contribute to policy development, is as important as the role of members of the Executive. As members of newly established Scrutiny Committees we must embrace the challenge with enthusiasm and energy.

The Housing and Social Services Scrutiny Committee’s remit involves overseeing services that provide assistance for disadvantaged adults and children living in our communities. Our role is to ensure that services provided are the best possible, and that we are open minded to change and service restructuring, as our communities and client expectations change.

It is a new period for us as members and I look forward to working with members and officers during the forthcoming year.