

ISLE OF ANGLESEY COUNTY COUNCIL	
COMMITTEE:	COUNTY COUNCIL
DATE:	14 September 2010
TITLE OF REPORT:	ESTABLISH A RECOVERY STEERING GROUP OF THE FULL COUNCIL
PURPOSE OF THE REPORT:	<p>CREATE A MEANS TO PROVIDE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE FULL COUNCIL WITH:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - an overview/monitoring role of the ongoing Recovery Programme; - direct communication with the Recovery Board
REPORT BY:	INTERIM MANAGING DIRECTOR

Introduction

At its meeting on the 14th September 2010 the Council will be asked to endorse its Recovery Programme.

As well as identifying those steps already successfully completed, the Recovery Programme will set out further activities which the Council must undertake in order to satisfy the Minister and the Recovery Board that the Council is fit, and will remain fit, to run its own affairs without need for continuing government intervention.

The progress of the Recovery Programme must be monitored and, while there are a number of existing groups / committees which will have a role to play in this, it is proposed that a Recovery Steering Group (the "Recovery Group") be established. The overall arrangements would be as illustrated in the diagram at Annex A.

Terms of Reference

The particular role of the Recovery Group will be to monitor the Council's overall progress against the work streams/projects which constitute the Recovery Programme and to give the Council assurance that the projects are meeting their objectives and outcomes; or to

alert the Council to any concerns/shortcomings and to make recommendations/suggestions for remedial action. The projects included in the Recovery Programme are:-

1.0 Member Development

2.0 Engagement

3.0 Businesslike Council

4.0 Performance

5.0 Reputation

6.0 HR

7.0 Strengthen Governance

In conducting its work, the Recovery Group may refer matters to other bodies, such as the Audit Committee or the Standards Committee, for comment or review, as the Recovery Group considers appropriate.

Given that resources are finite, the Recovery Group will also have an important role in making recommendations for the prioritisation of activities within the Recovery Programme.

The external Recovery Board will need to be assured that changes and improvements are sustainable before they will recommend to the Minister that the intervention is brought to an end. The Recovery Board has stated "...we remain concerned that some "backbench" members are not yet adequately involved in, and supportive of, the recovery. Some in particular appear unable to detach themselves from attitudes and ways of working that have become thoroughly discredited, and from issues and rivalries which should have been buried long ago". It will be part of the remit of the Recovery Group to consider whether the Recovery Programme is sufficiently robust to ensure that this issue is tackled and, if not, to identify further actions which the Council should take to enable all members

to move forward cooperatively. In addressing this issue the Recovery Group may need to work collaboratively with the Member Development Working Group and the Standards Committee.

The Chair of the Recovery Group will report to each annual and ordinary meeting of the Council to give the Council assurance (or otherwise) that the Recovery Programme is being properly prioritised and resourced and that the timetable and outcomes are being achieved.

In addition to regular reporting to the Council, the Recovery Group will also engage in regular dialogue with the external Recovery Board. To identify appropriate and mutual expectations in this regard it is likely that the Recovery Group, once established, will have a meeting in early course with the Recovery Board to agree mutual expectations about communication and reporting.

Suggested Terms of Reference for the Recovery Group are attached at Annex B.

Support

It is suggested that the Group shall be advised by the Council's Project Assurance Officer whose primary role will be to assess the progress and performance of the Recovery Programme Projects and to report to the Recovery Group. Other relevant officers will also contribute to the work of the Recovery Group as appropriate to the particular matter or matters under consideration

Membership

Members need to decide on what basis the Recovery Group will be populated.

A number of factors may need to be taken into consideration:-

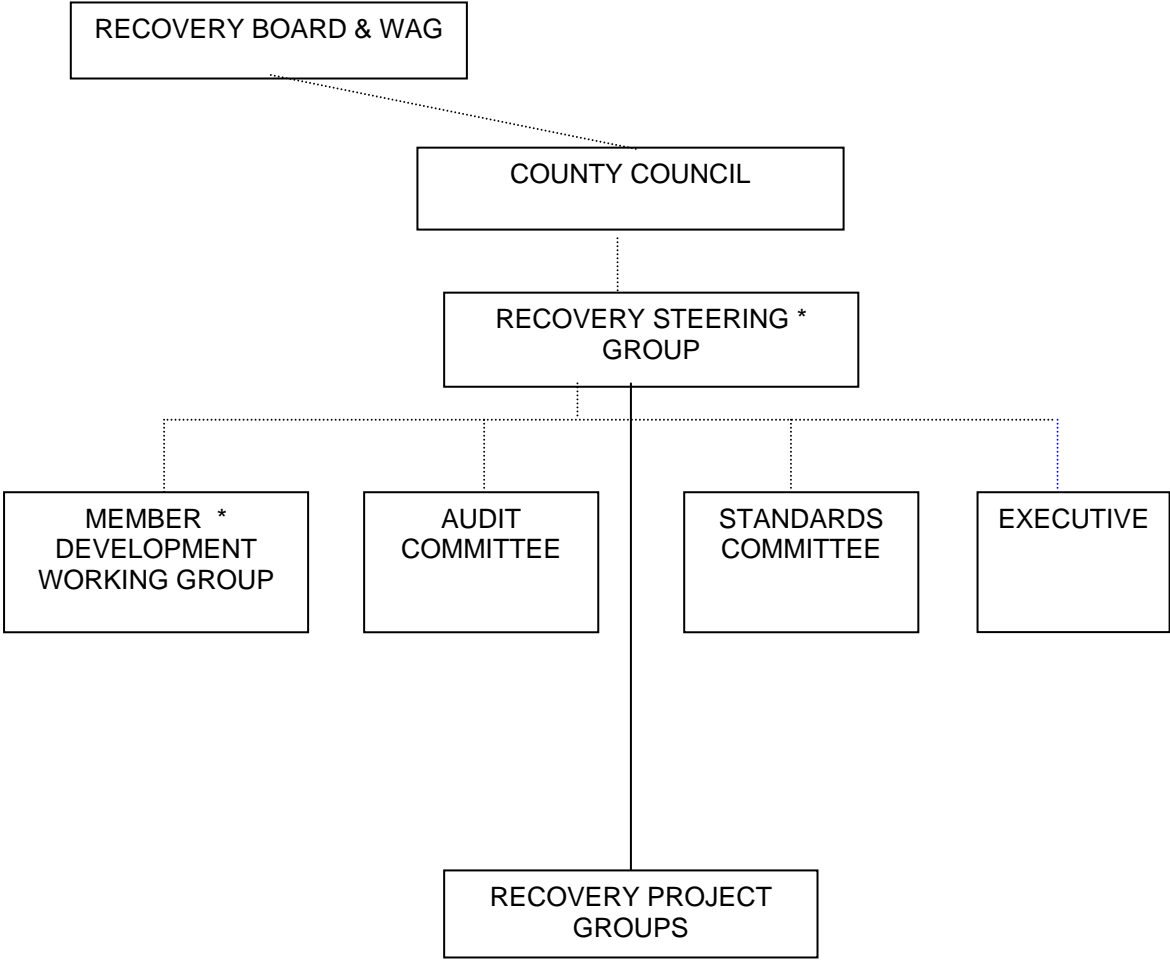
- Membership will have to take into account other responsibilities and obligations and no member should undertake a role on the Recovery Group without being satisfied that they have the necessary time and commitment

- As the issue of recovery is a matter of equal concern to all members, the Recovery Group should not be dominated by members of the Executive/Group Leaders
- Should there be a “cap” on the number of members and if so, what should it be?
- The desirability for both Executive and non-Executive members to be on the Steering Group
- The desirability to have both experienced and new members on the Recovery Group.
- The Chair of the Recovery Group might be
 - The Chair of the Council or
 - The Portfolio Holder for Corporate Governance or
 - A senior backbench member who commands respect from across the Chamber
- Whilst it is recommended that the Recovery Group shall not be politically balanced, members should decide whether to include representation from all groups/parties? In that case, each group/party would select its own representative.
- Should the Leader of the Council be a member?
- Should the Leader of the Opposition be a member?
- Should the Portfolio Holder for Corporate Governance and/or the Chair of the Corporate Scrutiny Committee be members?
- Should an unaffiliated member be appointed and, if so, how will he/she be selected?
- Should the Council select the Chair of the Recovery Group and allow the Chair to choose his/her own “team” with or without limitations or restrictions?
- Should the Chairs of the Audit Committee and/or the Standards Committee be members of the Recovery Group?

Recommendations

1. Members confirm the Terms of Reference at Annex B. Any revisions or variations thereto to be clearly identified and agreed.

2. Members to decide on the Chairmanship and membership of the Recovery Group.



*These are not formal Committees of the Council

RECOVERY STEERING GROUP

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 To provide assurance to the County Council that the Recovery Programme, designed to remove the Council from Welsh Assembly Government Intervention, is robust and is being delivered.

2.0 MEMBERSHIP

- 2.1 To be determined by the full Council.
- 2.2 Not to be politically balanced. The Recovery Group will not be a formal committee or sub-committee of the Council but will be a working group, meeting in private session, and reporting to the full Council.

3.0 DURATION AND FREQUENCY

- 3.1 The Recovery Group will continue to operate for the duration of the Welsh Assembly Government's Intervention.
- 3.2 Will meet at least twice in each quarter and such meetings shall be timed in order to report directly to the Council.

4.0 DETAILED TERMS OF REFERENCE

- 4.1 To consider the overall Recovery Programme and monitor its delivery and progress.
- 4.2 To ensure that there is effective communication with members of the Council generally on progress and ensure wider member commitment and ownership.
- 4.3 To review reports from the Recovery Board and elsewhere and adjust the Recovery Programme as necessary.
- 4.4 To advise the Council on any further steps it needs to consider in order to accelerate the removal of the Council from formal Intervention by the Welsh Assembly Government.
- 4.5 To report to each meeting of the Council on progress against the Recovery Programme.
- 4.6 To act as a reference group for the external Recovery Board.