

ISLE OF ANGLESEY COUNTY COUNCIL	
NAME OF COMMITTEE	CORPORATE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
DATE OF MEETING	8th October 2012
TITLE	Corporate Improvement Plan 2012 – backward looking performance review (2011/12)
AUTHOR	Huw Jones Head of Service - Policy
PORTFFOLIO LEADER	John Chorlton

1.0 Introduction / Background / Issues

- 1.1 The Council is required to publish an annual Performance Review by 31st October, documenting past performance on the previous year. This is a 'backward looking' (Draft) Performance Review of the Council's performance for 2011/12.
- 1.2 A copy of the draft document is attached. However, it is important for Members to note that this document still requires further refinement and editing. The intention is to present a revised document to Council.
- 1.3 The Improvement Plan needs to be presented to Council for approval before the end of October 2012, and is scheduled to be considered by the Executive at their meeting on the 15th of October 2012.

2.0 Considerations

Strategic focus and priorities

- 2.1 The Plan looks at progress the Council has made against its five strategic priorities
 - Protect and develop the Island's economy
 - Build and support sustainable communities
 - Promote healthy, safe and fair communities
 - Businesslike and affordable services
 - Raising the economic, social and environmental profile of the Council and Island

and, four improvement objectives:

- Becoming More Businesslike
- Delivering against the Affordable Priorities Programme
- The realization of our Outcome Agreement
- Implementation of the Democratic Renewal project

Improving Corporate Governance

2.2 Improving corporate governance remained a priority for the Council during 2011/12 which it sought to address through the agreed Commissioners Ten Corporate Governance Themes -

1. Relationship between Members and Political Groups
2. The effectiveness of the Council's Standard Committee
3. Scrutiny and its ability to effectively challenge and influence decisions and policies
4. Standards of conduct and behaviour by Members and Officers
5. The organisation coherence and effectiveness of the Council's Senior Management Team
6. Develop strategic priorities with more outcome focused measurement
7. Introduce a robust process for the performance, project and risk management
8. Improve the capacity, quality and management of corporate support services
9. Fully engage with and reflect the views and priorities of the citizens of Anglesey
10. Develop effective partnerships between the Council and the public and private sectors at local, regional and national levels

2.3 Progress of this aspect can be viewed under the final two strategic priorities, namely – Becoming more Businesslike / Raising the profile of the Council and Island

Audit and Inspection Reports

2.4 As well as addressing the corporate governance improvement areas, further regulatory work was undertaken during 2011/12 in other areas within the Council. Summary details are outlined in the audit and inspection reports referred to within the Plan.

Analysis of Performance Indicators

2.5 Under the Performance Measurement Framework introduced in April 2005, each Council in Wales has to collect and share data for National Strategic Indicators (NSIs) and also Core Strategic Indicators (CSIs) under each service area. A number of indicators have been used to discuss our performance against our

strategic priorities but the full results for NSI and Core Indicators for 2011/12 can be found on page 69 onwards. This section within the Plan looks at performance against the top, middle and bottom quartiles and comparison of performance between 2010/11 and 2011/12. In addition, performance as benchmarked against other authorities is included in the plan under each section on the Council's strategic priorities.

- 2.6 Information gained highlights that, as a Council, 38% of our PI's rest within the top quartile (which is an improvement of 10% on 2010/11), 34% within the middle quartile (which is a decline of 9% when comparing performance for 2010/11) and 28% within the bottom quartile (which is a declining trend by 2% on 2010/11).
- 2.7 Of these figures, it is encouraging to note that our Lifelong Learning Directorate is our strongest performer with 53% of its PI's in the top quartile whilst the Sustainable Development Directorate has 41% in that range and 33% of the Community Directorate PI's are in the same range.
- 2.8 However, approximately 29% of all indicators within the Council's remit have declined since 2010/11.
- 2.9 When it comes to Social Services and in particular the Children Service's which was subject to inspection during the year it is encouraging to note that 59% of indicators have improved since 2010/11 with 28% declining and 11% remaining unchanged.
- 2.10 The general picture in terms of our performance indicators (PIs) in 2011/12 shows improvement on performance in comparison to 2010/11 and needs to be analysed further.
- 2.11 The information on performance data will be used to further improve Performance Monitoring arrangements across the Organisation and address key areas of risk.

Outcome Agreement

- 2.12 This year, 2011/12, was the second year of a three year programme for delivery of the Outcome Agreement (OAs) signed between the Council and the Welsh Government (WG). Based on self-assessment work and initial, preliminary discussions with WG at the end of Year 2 the Council may be eligible for between 75% and 100% grant allocation. Although we have achieved the great majority of our outcomes and targets across most OAs, there are some shortfalls in a minority of areas.

- 2.13 At the time of writing the Council are not aware of the Welsh Government's final outcome of the second year's formal assessment and grant allocation award.

Financial Performance 2011/12

- 2.14 There is reference within the document as regards the Council's overall financial position and performance for 2011/12.

Ensuring equality and sustainability

- 2.15 Mainstreaming sustainability across the Authority continues to be developed and a strategic equality plan has been adopted to make sure that this is integrated into future working practices.

3.0 Recommendations

- 3.1 The Corporate Scrutiny Committee is requested to:

- 1) Comment on the draft plan and submit observations to the Executive.
- 2) Scrutinize performance of PI data and provide guidance as to which area or grouping of Indicators the Authority should prioritise and improve on performance in the future.
- 3) Consider areas of performance information which require more in-depth analysis and scrutiny.