

ISLE OF ANGLESEY COUNTY COUNCIL	
REPORT TO :	County Council
DATE:	23 May 2017
TITLE OF REPORT:	Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2016/17
REPORT BY:	Chairs of: 1. Corporate Scrutiny Committee 2. Partnership and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee
PURPOSE OF REPORT:	To report on the work of the two scrutiny committees during 2016/2017 and provide an overview of the 2017/18 scrutiny work programme
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1.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

The Council is requested to:

- 1.1 Approve the Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report for 2016-2017.
- 1.2 Note progress made in implementing the findings of a recent independent review of our overview and scrutiny arrangements.
- 1.3 Appoint the chair of the Corporate Scrutiny Committee as the “scrutiny champion” for the period May 2017 to May 2018.

2.0 BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

- 2.1 This Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report encompasses the work undertaken by the two scrutiny committees between the council's annual meeting on the 12 May 2016 and 23 May 2017.
- 2.2 The chairs of the two scrutiny committees led on developing the forward work programmes during this period. The scrutiny committees work programmes are submitted to the monthly Scrutiny Committee Chair and Vice-Chairs Forum and for approval at each scrutiny committee meeting.

Role of the Scrutiny Champion

- 2.3. The role of the “Scrutiny Champion” has an important role in promoting the overview and scrutiny function both within the Council and also with external partners of the Authority. It is not a mandatory or remunerated position. On 14 May 2015, the Council resolved that the chair of the Corporate Scrutiny Committee be appointed as Scrutiny Champion for the period May 2015 to May 2016 and the chair of the Partnership and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee from May 2016 to May 2017. Thereafter, the role of the Scrutiny Champion to alternate between the two scrutiny committee chairs.

Appendix:
Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2016/2017

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY

ANNUAL REPORT: 2016-2017



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1. FOREWARD

Councillor R Meirion Jones

- **Chair of the Corporate Scrutiny Committee 2016-2017**



At the end of another year and also the end of the term of the current Council, I wish to thank everybody who has contributed to the work of scrutiny over the last four years, officers, councillors and everybody else involved.

When preparing this report, I looked at the three previous annual reports and the three Forewords I wrote and I thought that I could copy parts of these. Although some comments are relevant to this year, I believe scrutiny has developed and evolved and has built on the work from year to year. Some aspects have been transformed whilst others require attention. We have been, and are still on, the scrutiny journey.

The nature of the work of the Corporate Scrutiny Committee (CSC) is outlined in the report itself, below, in Section 3. The workload of the CSC has been considerable and 11 meetings were held during the year, and two meetings were held on the same day, morning and afternoon, on two occasions in order to cope with the demands.

The CSC monitored performance on a quarterly basis through the Corporate Scorecard and also the Revenue and Capital Budgets. The Corporate Scorecard has developed substantially over this period and has proved to be a useful and important resource. The Dashboard is fairly new but well established and both the Scorecard and the Dashboard are part of the CSC's "journey".

One of the CSC's most important responsibilities is the Executive Committee's annual budget. Not only did the CSC consider the draft Budget and the results of the Public Consultation, but was also involved in the Budget Consultation Plan. Again, significant progress has been made during this period regard the planning of the Corporate Budget and the CSC has played its part.

A number of substantial issues have been considered by the CSC during the last year including – Review of the Anglesey Schools Modernisation Programme; Progress Report on CSSIW Annual Performance Evaluation of Social Services 2014/2015 (23/5/16) and CSSIW's Report on the Inspection of the Children's Services together with the Council's response (13/3/17); the Annual Report of the Statutory Director of Social Services and a Report on Social Services Complaints; Tenders for the Home Care Services and Changes to the Charging Policy for Home Care Services and Telecare; Consultancy Costs; Libraries "making a difference" and a Draft Strategy for the Libraries Service. Briefing sessions were held before formal meetings and it was felt that they were beneficial and made the formal meetings more effective.

In addition to the formal meetings, the CSC established Scrutiny Outcome Panels, dealing this time with Corporate Safeguarding and the Letting of Local Authority Housing (Empty Homes) and final reports were presented to the Executive Committee. The Schools Progress Outcome Panel continued with its work and some members of the CSC and the Partnerships Scrutiny Committee served on this Panel. Of course, some members of the CSC serve on other Council bodies such as the Transformation Programme Board and the Corporate Safeguarding Board. As Chairman of the CSC, I was required to attend a meeting with the CSSIW Manager for North Wales.

I believe scrutiny has contributed to the work of the Council. Scrutiny Officers were responsible for the administration and the thorough arrangements and other officers contributed to the work. The Forum for the Chairs and Vice-Chairs of Scrutiny has made Scrutiny more organised. The members of both Scrutiny Committees were more than prepared to contribute. The CSC has attempted to meet the required standards and has been a critical friend which has provided additional value in a number of ways. Despite the good work, we cannot rest on our laurels. I mentioned above that we are on a scrutiny journey and we now look forward to continuing that journey. I refer specifically to the Review mentioned in Part 6 of the Report and Appendix 5. It was seen that the CSC's arrangements needed to be changed slightly and two sub-committees will be established, a Finance Committee and a Children's Committee and both will report back regularly to the Corporate Scrutiny Committee.

Thank you for the privilege of chairing the Corporate Scrutiny Committee for the last four years. The Williams Reports and the Wales Audit Office have mentioned the importance of scrutiny to the success of the work of the County Councils. In thanking everybody for their contributions, I wish to take advantage of the opportunity to wish scrutiny well in the future.

R Meirion Jones
(Chair of the Corporate Scrutiny Committee)

Councillor Jim Evans

- **Chair of the Partnership and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee 2016-2017**
- **Scrutiny Champion 2016 -2017**



I am pleased to have an opportunity to provide a brief summary of the work undertaken by the Partnership and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee during 2016-2017.

Members of the Partnership and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee have undertaken a great deal of work covering a wide range of issues and topics over the last year which has included scrutiny of council services and partner organisations. By reading the individual sections of the Scrutiny Annual Report 2016-2017 you will see how scrutiny can make a difference to the Island's residents and our communities quality of life.

This year has been challenging for the committee, who have considered difficult topics such as Gypsy and Traveller sites, Joint working between Betsi Cadwaladr University Board and the Council, the Annual School Progress Report on School's performance and support provided to schools by GwE (Regional School Effectiveness & Improvement Service for North Wales). I would like to thank those members who participated in these meetings; the work has enabled members to look at the subjects in detail and make recommendations for improvements together with enhancing member's knowledge.

I think the next 12 months, as always, will be a challenge for scrutiny members and officers. The local authority elections will be held in May 2017, with new members being elected, and the Assembly is anticipated to pass legislation for strengthened regional working together with other important matters affecting local government in Wales. Having said that, I am sure the scrutiny function will be able to develop to meet any new challenge.

I would like to use this opportunity to express my own appreciation and thanks to all members, officers, external organisations and others who have contributed to a successful year in the continued development of scrutiny in Anglesey.

Finally, I must express thanks to Councillor Derlwyn Hughes for his service as chair of this committee up to January 2017. It was a pleasure to be a member of the committee whilst it was chaired by him, he was exceptionally good, and I had to do my very best to live up to the very high standard he set.

Jim Evans

(Chair of the Partnership and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee)

2.0 WHAT IS OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY?

National Context:

- 2.1 Scrutiny committees form part of the way in which local government in Wales operates. As well as the establishment of a decision making executive, the Local Government Act 2000 requires the establishment of one or more scrutiny committees to hold the decision-makers to account, drive improvement, act as the voice of the community and play a role in assisting in policy development and review.
- 2.2 The Centre for Public Scrutiny (CfPS)¹ advocates four key principles in support of effective Member scrutiny:
- i. Provide “critical friend” challenge to executive policy makers and decision makers
 - ii. Enable the voice and concerns of the public and its communities to be heard
 - iii. Be carried out by “independent minded governors” who lead and own the scrutiny process
 - iv. Drive improvement in public services.
- 2.3 In January 2017, the Welsh Government published a White Paper entitled Reforming Local Government: Resilient and Renewed and the consultation period closed in April. This White Paper sought views on proposals for mandatory regional working to deliver a range of services, address workforce issues and implement electoral reform. It also called on citizens to become active participants in local democracy and in the design and delivery of services. It is anticipated that the subsequent Bill, arising from the White Paper, will bring mandatory joint working for Welsh Councils and also specific proposals relating to Member scrutiny functions.
- 2.4 The Welsh Government propose to provide a framework which allows for choices in how scrutiny is undertaken. There will be the option of continuing to undertake scrutiny in each council within a regional arrangement, or to establish a standing regional scrutiny committee, or to undertake regional scrutiny on a task and finish basis or to adopt a mix of these approaches. In undertaking scrutiny of a regional function, it is proposed that members should be under a duty to consider the regional interest as well as the interests of their particular council. There will therefore be a need for scrutiny to develop further as changes occur.
- 2.5 To further develop scrutiny in the Council an independent review of scrutiny was undertaken in 2016 to provide a wider perspective of our current arrangements. Further information can be seen in section 6 to this report.

¹ Good Scrutiny Guide, London Centre for Public Scrutiny 2004

Local Structure:

- 2.6 The overview and scrutiny function at the Isle of Anglesey County Council continues to be delivered through a structure comprising of two scrutiny committees:
- Corporate Scrutiny Committee;
 - Partnership and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee.
- 2.7 The **Corporate Scrutiny Committee** established two scrutiny outcome panels in 2016/17 to consider two areas of policy namely - Corporate Safeguarding, and the Letting of Local Authority Housing (Voids). During this period, the School Progress Review Group (a scrutiny outcome panel of the **Partnership and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee and Corporate Scrutiny Committee**) also continued with its ongoing work. Paragraph 5.1 below discusses the work of these panels in greater detail.
- 2.8 The relevant scrutiny committee can “call-in” a decision taken by either the Executive, Portfolio Holder or an officer to whom the Executive has been delegated with a specific decision making power. The scrutiny committees do not exercise a “call-in” unless there is a very good reason to do so, and during 2016-2017 this was not exercised.
- 2.9 Our scrutiny committees can undertake their work in one of the following ways:
- Consider a topic during a formal meeting
 - Consider a topic in more detail by establishing a scrutiny outcome panel OR
 - Conduct informal sessions on a particular area of policy.
- 2.10 Again during 2016/2017, the scrutiny committees were aware of the need to seek to focus their work on outcomes and within the Wales Audit Office framework of characteristics and outcomes for effective local government overview and scrutiny²:
- Better outcomes
 - Better decisions
 - Better engagement

This best practice framework is summarised in **APPENDIX 1** to this report.

² Good Scrutiny? Good Question!, Wales Audit Office, 2014

3.0 CORPORATE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Remit:

- 3.1 The focus of the work of the Corporate Scrutiny Committee is to provide assurance regarding the performance and delivery of all services; ensure the council achieves its corporate and service objectives (as outlined in its Corporate Business Plan, Annual Budget, Budget and Policy Framework, Performance Management Framework, Corporate Policies or their successor plans and policies); and to support and make recommendations for continuous improvement.
- 3.2 Members of the Corporate Scrutiny Committee hold briefing meetings in advance of every committee in order to prepare and focus discussion at the formal meetings of the committee. This is regarded good practice and it is intended to continue with these arrangements in 2017-2018.

Membership:

- 3.3 The Corporate Scrutiny Committee is chaired by Councillor R Meirion Jones and supported by Vice Chair Councillor Gwilym O Jones. Ten Members sit on the committee and membership reflects the political balance of the Council. Full details of the membership of the committee is attached (**APPENDIX 2**).

4.0 PARTNERSHIP AND REGENERATION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Remit:

- 4.1 The primary focus of the Partnership and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee is to ensure that the interests of the citizens of the Isle of Anglesey are promoted, and that best use is made of Council resources, in line with the council's priorities, that demonstrate added value from working with partners. The remit of the committee includes regional and national arrangements as well as local arrangements.
- 4.2 The committee's remit also extends to regeneration matters and the "Energy Island" programme (or successor plans and policies).
- 4.3 The committee is also the nominated Crime and Disorder Committee dealing with crime and disorder matters, as required under Section 19 and 20 of the Police and Justice Act 2006.
- 4.4 During early 2017 the committee began to trial briefing meetings with members prior to each formal scrutiny committee meeting. This is regarded as good practice and it is anticipated that this practice will be fully embedded during 2017/2018.

Membership:

- 4.5 The Partnership and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee was chaired by Councillor Derlwyn Hughes until his resignation as an elected member on the grounds of ill health in January, 2017. Councillor Jim Evans stepped into the breach for the remaining period. Councillor Alun Mummery was Vice-Chair of the Committee during 2016/17. Ten members also sit on this committee and membership reflects the political balance of the Council. Full details of the membership of the committee is attached (**APPENDIX 3**).

5.0 ASSESSING THE IMPACT OF SCRUTINY

- 5.1 A number of significant **outputs** were achieved by Scrutiny during the last municipal year, which go some way in assisting us to assess the impact that the function has had locally:

- **Forward work programmes** – there is in place a well-established practice of forward work programming to underpin the work of both scrutiny committees. These programmes are an important tool in assisting scrutiny committee members to prioritise their work and have been discussed with the Senior Leadership Team and Heads of Service. Both committees review the content of their forward work programmes at each meeting in order to ensure that they remain relevant and keep abreast with local priorities. It is however acknowledged that we need to adopt a more strategic and outcome-based approach based on the Council's priorities, Transformation Programme, Corporate Risks and Executive Forward Work Programme. This will be a priority for us during the 2017/18 municipal year.
- **Committee meetings** – a total of 18 scrutiny committee meetings were convened during 2016/17; 11 meetings of the Corporate Scrutiny Committee and 7 of the Partnership and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee. There are also robust arrangements in place to ensure appropriate air time at the Executive on matters that have been considered by both committees.

The work of the Corporate Scrutiny Committee can be summarised into four main themes:

- I. Service Performance
- II. Budget setting and in year performance

- III. Annual reports (social services and libraries)
- IV. Transformation proposals

The work of the Partnership and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee can be summarised into for main themes:

- I. Partnerships Performance
- II. Economic regeneration and the Energy Island concept (or successor plans and policies.
- III. Crime and Disorder matters
- IV. To deal with any matter that is unable to be considered by the Corporate Scrutiny Committee.

- **Scrutiny Outcome Panels** - the two parent committees were also supported by scrutiny outcome panels who completed in-depth scrutiny work within the following policy areas:

Parent Committee	Area of Policy	Remit
Corporate Scrutiny Committee	Corporate Safeguarding	Monitor initial progress in implementing recommendations of a Wales Audit Office report on the Authority's corporate safeguarding arrangements
Corporate Scrutiny Committee	Letting of local authority housing (voids)	In-depth scrutiny on performance of the letting of local authority housing
Partnership and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee and Corporate Scrutiny Committee	School Progress	To challenge the performance of schools and recognise good practice in order to encourage its adoption by Anglesey schools.
Further details on the work of these panels are attached (APPENDIX 4).		

- **Chairs and Vice-chairs Forum** – this forum is now in its second year of running and has met on a monthly basis during 2016/17. The Forum is considered an important vehicle to oversee the scrutiny committee work programmes and jointly negotiate priorities with the scrutiny committees' chairs and vice-chairs. It also takes lead responsibility for developing and continuously improving the overview and scrutiny function in the Council.

Measuring outcomes:

5.2 Capturing and assessing the impact of Scrutiny is a challenge to achieve as the **outcomes** of overview and scrutiny activities are not always tangible and often do not easily lend themselves to being measured in a systematic way. Furthermore, it is not easy to measure the effectiveness of the overview and scrutiny function's ability to influence decision makers through discussion and debate. There are however some examples where the input of scrutiny has added value and / or influenced the way in which proposals have been implemented by the Council. For example:

- **2017/18 budget setting process** – setting the foundations for an enhanced, more strategic and outcome based approach to budget setting based on best practices³. The Corporate Scrutiny Committee concentrated its efforts on a number of key strategic questions and also the quality of the public consultation pack. In moving forward, the Authority will need to build on this positive development and ensure the input of scrutiny earlier in the budget setting process.
- **Citizen engagement and participation** – scrutiny input to the budget setting process also included direct engagement with and a contribution from the Isle of Anglesey Youth Council (*Llais Ni*) which added value to the scrutiny function. Members of Llais Ni attended a workshop with officers and Members to gain greater insight into the Council's budget proposals. This enabled the young people to submit a comprehensive response to the budget proposals for consideration by the Scrutiny Committee. Representatives of Llais Ni also attended a meeting of the Corporate Scrutiny Committee to observe the committee's consideration of its comments on the budget proposals. An evaluation of this work has been commissioned through Medrwn Môn with a view to building upon this successful foundation.

³ Raising the Stakes: Financial scrutiny in challenging times. A guide for Welsh local authorities, Centre for Public Scrutiny (2014)

- **Performance of children's services** – having highlighted concerns around performance of some key performance indicators during its second quarterly monitoring of the corporate scorecard, the Corporate Scrutiny Committee requested a detailed report from children's services. This enabled the Committee to give further consideration to performance issues within the service and has contributed to a decision to establish a children's services standing panel.
- **School Performance** – The Partnership and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee had an opportunity to question the senior Challenge Adviser (GwE) in detail about steps being taken to improve performance of schools in the orange and red category in the National School Categorisation Framework. In addition, the committee received a report on schools standards for the 2015/16 academic year. The information contained a comprehensive overview of the performance of the Island's schools. The committee were able to raise various matters. Concern was expressed that secondary schools are in a slightly lower position in most of the key indicators as the national increase in much higher and that there was a need to improve performance in key stage 4.
- **Gypsy and Traveller Sites** – The Partnership and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee were requested to scrutinise the contentious matter of identifying and locating temporary and permanent gypsy and traveller sites on the Island. The committee received information from residents, independent advocate appointed on behalf of the gypsy and traveller community and officers. The committee also had the opportunity to scrutinise the draft North Wales Gypsy and Traveller Community Protocol so that a more consistent approach is in place in North Wales.

6.0 LOOKING FORWARD TO 2017/18

- 6.1 During 2016, the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) commissioned the Centre for Public Scrutiny to undertake a review of current scrutiny arrangements in the Council with a view to providing the Authority with recommendations to build upon and further strengthen the overview and scrutiny function in readiness for the new administration in May, 2017. The outcomes of this review has provided a strong basis upon which to move forward, providing further clarity on the role that overview and scrutiny plays in the Authority's governance arrangements.

6.2 The findings of this review have been fully taken on board by Members and SLT and have been translated into an improvement programme, prioritising actions in both the short and medium term under the following themes:

- Strengthen the “whole Council” approach to scrutiny
- Improving the impact of scrutiny
- Building the capacity and capability for effective scrutiny
- Improving public engagement in our scrutiny work.

A vision statement for delivering effective scrutiny has been prepared, as a foundation upon which to further strengthen our overview and scrutiny function (**APPENDIX 5**). The statement has been endorsed by the Scrutiny Committees’ Chairs/Vice-Chairs Forum who will monitor progress in implementing the improvement programme.

7.0 CONTACT SCRUTINY

7.1 To find out more about scrutiny in Anglesey or to give your views please contact:

Scrutiny Unit,
Isle of Anglesey County Council,
Council Offices.
Llangefni.
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LL77 7TW

Anwen Davies	Interim Scrutiny Manager (leading on supporting the Corporate Scrutiny Committee).	(01248) 752578 AnwenDavies@ynysmon.gov.uk
Geraint Wyn Roberts	Scrutiny Officer (leading on supporting the Partnership and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee).	(01248) 752039 gwrce@ynysmon.gov.uk



OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY
ANNUAL REPORT: 2016-2017

APPENDICES

Outcomes and Characteristics for Effective Local Government Overview & Scrutiny⁴











Outcome <i>What does good scrutiny seek to achieve?</i>	Characteristics <i>What would it look like? How could we recognise it?</i>
<p>1. Democratic accountability drives improvement in public services.</p> <p><i>“Better Outcomes”</i></p>	<p>Environment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Overview & scrutiny has a clearly defined and valued role in the council's improvement and governance arrangements. ii) Overview & scrutiny has the dedicated officer support it needs from officers who are able to undertake independent research effectively, and provides councillors with high-quality analysis, advice and training. <p>Practice</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> iii) Overview & scrutiny inquiries are non-political, methodologically sound and incorporate a wide range of evidence and perspectives. <p>Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> iv) Overview & scrutiny regularly engages in evidence based challenge of decision makers and service providers. v) Overview & scrutiny provides viable and well evidenced solutions to recognised problems.
<p>2. Democratic decision making is accountable, inclusive and robust.</p> <p><i>“Better decisions”</i></p>	<p>Environment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Overview & scrutiny councillors have the training and development opportunities they need to undertake their role effectively. ii) The process receives effective support from the council's corporate management team who ensures that information provided to overview & scrutiny is of high quality and is provided in a timely and consistent manner. <p>Practice</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> iii) Overview & scrutiny is councillor-led, takes into account the views of the public, partners and regulators, and balances the prioritisation of

⁴ Good Scrutiny? Good Question! Wales Audit Office, 2014

	<p>community concerns against issues of strategic risk and importance.</p> <p>iv) Overview & scrutiny meetings and activities are well-planned, chaired effectively and make best use of the resources available to it.</p> <p>Impact</p> <p>v) Decision makers give public account for themselves at overview & scrutiny committees for their portfolio responsibilities.</p>
<p>3. The public is engaged in democratic debate about the current and future delivery of public services.</p> <p><i>“Better engagement”</i></p>	<p>Environment</p> <p>i) Overview & scrutiny is recognised by the executive and corporate management team as an important council mechanism for community engagement, and facilitates greater citizen involvement in governance.</p> <p>Practice</p> <p>ii) Overview & scrutiny is characterised by effective communication to raise awareness of, and encourage participation in democratic accountability.</p> <p>iii) Overview & scrutiny operates non-politically and deals effectively with sensitive political issues, tension and conflict.</p> <p>iv) Overview & scrutiny builds trust and good relationships with a wide variety of internal and external stakeholders.</p> <p>Impact</p> <p>v) Overview and scrutiny enables the 'voice' of local people and communities across the area to be heard as part of decision and policy-making processes.</p>





APPENDIX 2

Membership of the Corporate Scrutiny Committee

	Name	Ward	Political Party/Group		Name	Ward	Political Party/Group
	Cllr R Meirion Jones (Chair)	Aethwy	Plaid Cymru		Cllr Gwilym Jones (Vice Chair)	Llifon	Independent
	Cllr Raymond Jones	Caergybi	Independent		Cllr Jim Evans	Aethwy	Independent
	Cllr Victor Hughes	Bro Rhosyr	Independent		Cllr Lewis Davies	Seiriol	Plaid Cymru
	Cllr Ann Griffith	Bro Aberffraw	Plaid Cymru		Cllr Llinos Medi Huws	Talybolion	Plaid Cymru
	Cllr R Llewelyn Jones	Caergybi	Unaffiliated		Cllr Peter Rogers	Bro Aberffraw	Revolutionist Group

APPENDIX 3

Membership of the Partnership and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee

	Name	Ward	Political Party/Group		Name	Ward	Political Party/Group
	Cllr Jim Evans Hughes (Chair)	Aethwy	Independent		Cllr Alun Mummery (Vice Chair)	Aethwy	Plaid Cymru
	Cllr Gwilym Jones	Llifon	Independent		Cllr Richard Owen Jones	Twrcelyn	Indepenent
	Cllr Dafydd Rhys Thomas	Ynys Cybi	Independent		Cllr Trefor LI Hughes	Ynys Gybi	Plaid Cymru
	Cllr Carwyn Jones	Seiriol	Plaid Cymru		Cllr Dylan Rees	Canolbarth Mon	Plaid Cymru
	Cllr Robert Llewelyn Jones	Caergybi	Unaffiliated	1	Vacant Seat		

Members of the Partnership and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee during part of 2016-2017		
Cllr Derlwyn Hughes	Cllr John Griffith	Cllr W T Hughes
		

Scrutiny Outcome Panels: 2016/17

Scrutiny Outcome Panel: Corporate Safeguarding

Panel Membership:

Councillor Meirion Jones (Chair), Councillor Llinos Medi Huws, Councillor Ann Griffith and Councillor Jim Evans

Summary:

On the 6 July 2015 the Corporate Scrutiny Committee considered the Council’s response to a report by the Wales Audit Office (WAO) on the authority’s assurance and accountability arrangements in respect of corporate safeguarding. The committee backed proposed actions to implement recommendations made by the WAO, but also considered it appropriate to establish a Panel to monitor initial progress to ensure key areas were addressed in a timely manner.

In undertaking its task the Panel obtained relevant plans and policies and met with senior officers that had been tasked corporately with leading on this matter.

The Panel was satisfied that the Corporate Safeguarding Board was undertaking the task to ensure that the Council was undertaking their safeguarding duty. Various recommendations were made to ensure further improvements such as more focus of monitoring in the Corporate Scorecard, Corporate Safeguarding Board to include a member of the Corporate Scrutiny Committee and all services to take ownership of this matter and ensure appropriate checks are undertaken.

The Panel’s final report was submitted to Corporate Scrutiny Committee on the 12 September 2016 and it was agreed that it should be forwarded to the Executive on the 17 October 2016. The Executive accepted the report in full together with all its recommendations.

Scrutiny Outcome Panel: Letting of Local Authority Housing (Voids)

Panel Membership:

Councillor Gwilym Jones (Chair), Councillor Victor Hughes, Councillor Lewis Davies, Councillor Raymond Jones and Councillor Robert LI Jones.

Summary:

On the 17 September 2015 the Corporate Scrutiny committee consider the Corporate score card (Q1). The scorecard highlighted a red flag status for the average number of calendar days to let units of accommodation (PI 23) and it was considered the matter merited an establishment of a Panel to look into the matter in greater detail.

In undertaking its task the Panel obtained relevant information to empty properties and processes within the council. The Panel also met housing officers in order to obtain a practical explanation of the re-letting processes and their perspective of the current situation.

The Panel accepted housing services explanation for poor performance of PI 23 and agreed that the target of 25 days be retained, but that it should be monitored against neighbouring authorities. During

2017/18 reconsideration should be given to its inclusion or change. The importance of briefing members on the Allocation Policy was also stressed together with developing a short information sheet on key matters.

The Panel's final report was submitted to Corporate Scrutiny Committee on the 12 September 2016 and it was agreed that it should be forwarded to the Executive on the 17 October 2016. The Executive accepted the report in full together with all its recommendations.

Scrutiny Outcome Panel: School Progress Review Group (status: on-going)

Panel Membership:

Councillor Derlwyn Hughes, Councillor Alun Mummery, Councillor Dylan Rees, Councillor Richard Owen Jones, Councillor R Meirion Jones, Councillor Gwilym Jones, Councillor Lewis Davies and Councillor Jim Evans.

(NB a member of the Panel is elected to chair at each meeting).

Summary:

The School Progress Review Group was established on the 21 November 2012 by a former committee known as the Education and Leisure Scrutiny Committee. It arose from recommendations made by Estyn on the quality of education services for children and young people on Anglesey. The aim of the group was to assist the education service in improving the performance of schools on the Island, by increasing and developing local accountability for school performance and enhancing local Members' knowledge about key performance drivers and challenges that face schools on Ynys Môn.

With the establishment of a new scrutiny committee structure during May 2013 it was agreed that members of the Corporate Scrutiny Committee and the Partnership and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee would continue with the work of the School Progress Review Group but designate it a Scrutiny Outcome Panel. The Panel monitors the progress of individual schools to learn from schools performing well and, if necessary, make recommendations to the Life Long Learning Department that a school may require additional support from the education service and/or the regional school improvement service known as "GwE".

The key messages from the School Progress Review Group for 2016/17 were that Schools :

- Worked well with GwE, and were complimentary about the quality of support provided;
- Had evidence of using development plans to address areas of weak performance;
- Worked well with other schools on the Island in order to share good practice;
- Were open in identifying weakness in school performance and were able to provide a cogent explanation of why this was the case;
- Have a limited pool of experienced teachers willing to fill vacant temporary posts and head teacher posts, particularly through the medium of Welsh.

During 2016/17 the Panel met on 4 occasions and met with School Head teachers, Chair of Governors and GwE Challenge advisors. A report on the Panel's work was submitted to the Partnership and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee on the 16 February 2017 and a schedule of schools to attend has been approved by the Panel.

A vision for delivering effective scrutiny in Isle of Anglesey County Council

Vision

Scrutiny in Anglesey aims to secure better outcomes for citizens and communities and also add to the effectiveness of the Council by helping make public services more transparent, inclusive, accountable and cost effective.

Guiding Principles for Scrutiny in Anglesey

- Scrutiny is characterised by an atmosphere of mutual trust, co-operation and shared responsibility for achieving the best outcomes for local communities.
- Non-Executive Members are non-political in carrying out their support and challenge roles.
- Scrutiny activity directly broadens the evidence base upon which decisions and programmes of transformational change are predicated by providing a view on how proposals are likely to resonate with local communities.
- Non-Executive Members help ensure that a strategic, long term approach is taken when major service reconfiguration is being considered by providing constructive challenge in testing assumptions, examining risks and challenging how resources are prioritised.

Our Values

Overview and Scrutiny in Anglesey....

- Is 'forward and outward' and proactive rather than 'inwards and reactive'
- Has a clearly defined and valued role in the council's improvement and governance arrangements
- Is non-political, methodologically sound and incorporates a wide range of evidence and perspectives including those from strategic partners, regulators and the public.
- Is led by councillors who have the training and development opportunities they need to undertake their role effectively.
- Receives effective support from the council's senior leadership team who ensures that information provided to overview and scrutiny is of high quality and is provided in a timely and consistent manner.
- Takes into account concerns expressed at ward level in a non-parochial way when managing its forward work programme.
- Is well-planned, chaired effectively and makes best use of the resources available to it.
- Is recognised by the executive and senior leadership team as an important council mechanism for community engagement, and facilitates greater citizen involvement in governance.
- Builds trust and positive relationships with a wide variety of internal and external stakeholders.