

ISLE OF ANGLESEY COUNTY COUNCIL	
REPORT TO :	County Council
DATE:	15 th May 2018
TITLE OF REPORT:	Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2017/18
REPORT BY:	Chairs of: 1. Corporate Scrutiny Committee 2. Partnership and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee
PURPOSE OF REPORT:	Report on the work of the two scrutiny committees during 2017/18 and provide an overview of the 2018/19 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 2017/2018
- 1.2 Note continued progress made in implementing our local Scrutiny improvement journey and the impact this is having on practice
- 1.3 Appoint the chair of the Partnership and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee as the “scrutiny champion” for the period May 2018 to May 2019.

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 23rd May 2017 and 15th May 2018.
- 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 Chairs and Vice-Chairs Forum and for approval at each scrutiny committee meeting.

Role of the Scrutiny Champion

- 2.3. 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 14th 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, thereafter, that the role of the Champion should alternate between the two scrutiny committee chairs. The Chair of the Partnership and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee should therefore be appointed as the designated Scrutiny Champion for the coming year.

Appendix:
Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2017/18

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY

ANNUAL REPORT: 2017-2018



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1. FOREWORD

Councillor Aled Morris Jones

- **Chair of the Corporate Scrutiny Committee 2017/18**
- **Scrutiny Champion 2017/18**



It is my pleasure to provide an overview of the work of Scrutiny in the Council over the past 12 months.

Firstly, as the current Scrutiny Champion may I note the important contribution that Member Scrutiny makes to our governance arrangements. I believe that the progress we have made over the past year in our improvement journey provides a strong basis upon which to move forward, ensuring the role that Scrutiny plays in the Authority's governance arrangements:

- i. Supports robust and effective decision-making
- ii. Makes a tangible contribution to the Council's improvement priorities
- iii. Continues to evolve

This improvement journey needs to continue as we prepare for the 2018/19 municipal year.

The scope of work of the Corporate Scrutiny Committee is discussed in this report and it is fair to note that the workload has been considerable and varied. A total of 11 meetings were convened during the year in order to complete our work programme:

- **Annual budget setting 2018/19** – this is one of the most important responsibilities of the Committee. The Corporate Scrutiny Committee considered the draft budget and the response to the Council's Public Consultation and also made a contribution to the budget consultation plan. Views of citizens were also received by the Committee by a representative of the Citizens' Panel. I believe that significant progress has been made during this period as regards the budget setting process and the contribution that Scrutiny made.
- **Quarterly monitoring of performance** – the Committee monitored performance on a quarterly basis using the corporate scorecard. The scorecard continues to evolve as an effective tool for Member Scrutiny monitoring of performance. This work has also included monitoring of implementation of the children's services improvement plan. I am sure that work in this area of the Committee's work programme will continue to develop
- **Transformation priorities** - a number of substantial issues were considered by the Corporate Scrutiny Committee over the past 12 months including – schools' modernisation programme, transformation of heritage and library services and extra care housing. Again, this aspect will continue to be an important element of the Committee's work programme.

I also wish to note the significant contribution the Finance and Children's Services Improvement Panels have made to the Member Scrutiny work programme during 2017/18 and am pleased to report that their contributions have been commended externally.

Finally, I believe that Scrutiny has developed well over the past year and has added value to the decision-making in the Council. This improvement focus should continue as we move forward. Thank you to all those who have assisted and contributed.

Councillor Aled Morris Jones

(Chair of the Corporate Scrutiny Committee)

Councillor Gwilym O Jones



- **Chair of the Partnership and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee 2017/18**

I am pleased to have an opportunity to provide a flavour of the work undertaken by the Partnership and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee during 2017-2018.

Before I continue, I would like to take this opportunity to emphasise the importance of Scrutiny Committees to the Council, in effect they are the eyes and ears of everyone living on Isle of Anglesey. Through these committees we, your councillors, make sure that the services provided by the Council and its partners are continually improving.

The Partnership and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee provides the Executive with recommendations and views on the Authority's and its partners' work; our aim is to ensure that public services on the Island meet the different needs of the Island's residents, within available resources, as effectively as possible.

Over the past year we have scrutinised numerous matters; here are some of the highlights during the past 12 months:

- How Môn Communities First Ltd delivered its programme and its future plans following post communities first funding changes. The Committee met with Môn Communities First representatives and officers from the Council. The Council was appointed as the Lead Delivery Body for the Anglesey Communities First cluster in February 2013.
- The Community Safety Partnership is required to report to the Partnership and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee to present an overview of its activities to enable the Committee to ensure that the partnership delivers in accordance with the Criminal Justice and Police Act 2016. At its meeting the Committee had an opportunity to discuss the priorities and future direction of the partnership.
- How the Council and its partners work together to improve performance of schools. The Committee welcomed the Managing Director of GwE (School Effectiveness and Improvement Service for North Wales) and had an opportunity to question him on the organisation's future plans. As well as hearing from GwE, the Committee received information on key stage performance of the 2016/2017 school year, together with reports from the School Progress Review Scrutiny Panel.
- The Committee is a statutory consultee on the Well-being Plan of the Public Services Board. The Committee did approve the draft plan but provided the Public Services Board with areas that needed to be strengthened and developed in moving forward.

I am grateful to all those that have helped the committee to undertake its work and who have taken the time to give us information or advice. I would also like to thank all the Committee's Members for their hard work and commitment over the past year. The next 12 months will undoubtedly be as demanding as 2017-2018.

Councillor Gwilym O Jones
(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:
- Provide “critical friend” challenge to executive policy makers and decision makers
 - Enable the voice and concerns of the public and its communities to be heard
 - Be carried out by “independent minded governors” who lead and own the scrutiny process
 - Is evidence based and drives improvement in public services.
- 2.3 In January 2017, the Welsh Government published a White Paper entitled Reforming Local Government: Resilient and Renewed. The White Paper sought views on proposals for mandatory regional working to deliver a range of services, address workforce issues and implement electoral reform. Welsh Government have very recently published a subsequent Green Paper² explaining its ambitions and proposes a statement of intent for a stronger and more empowered local government in Wales. These proposals set out an approach for the future of local government “to deliver stronger, more resilient and sustainable public services with democratic accountability at its core”³. It is anticipated that specific proposals will also be developed relating to Member scrutiny functions both within the local context and also in holding to account services delivered through regional arrangements. It will therefore be necessary for us to continually develop our local scrutiny framework and arrangements in response to the proposed new legislation and evolving national policy context.
- 2.4 The Wales Audit Office undertook a national review of scrutiny during 2017/18 with fieldwork in all local authority areas. The purpose of the review was threefold:

¹ Good Scrutiny Guide, Centre for Public Scrutiny 2004

² Strengthening Local Government: Delivering for people (20 March, 2018)

³ Strengthening Local Government: Delivering for people (20 March, 2018, p.2)



- Explore how 'fit for the future' our scrutiny arrangements are and how well placed we are to respond to future challenges (including continued pressure on public finances and possible move towards regional working between Councils)
- Scrutiny of the Public Services Board
- Wellbeing of Future Generations and how we are responding in relation to our scrutiny work.

Evidence gathering and fieldwork by the Wales Audit Office in respect of the Council's Scrutiny arrangements was completed by the end of January, 2018. The draft report on the Scrutiny review had not been received at the time of preparing this annual report.

2.5 It was reported in the 2016/17 Annual Report that an independent review of scrutiny had been commissioned⁴ by the Council during 2016 in order to provide an external view on the:

- Strengths of the then scrutiny arrangements
- Possible areas for further development in moving forward, after the Council Election in May, 2017.

The key messages from this review provided a framework for our local scrutiny improvement journey which is ongoing in the Council. This is discussed in more detail in paragraph 5 below.

Local Structure:

2.6 **Parent committees:** The overview and scrutiny function at the Isle of Anglesey County Council continues to be delivered through a structure comprising of two parent scrutiny committees:

- Corporate Scrutiny Committee; and
- Partnership and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee.

2.7 **Scrutiny panels:** During 2017/18, the Council revised its scrutiny structure and established 3 standing scrutiny panels with members of all 3 panels allocated from the membership of both parent committees:

- Finance Scrutiny Panel (reporting to the Corporate Scrutiny Committee)
- Children's Services Improvement Panel (reporting to the Corporate Scrutiny Committee)
- Schools Progress Review Scrutiny Panel (reporting to the Partnership & Regeneration Scrutiny Committee)

⁴ Centre for Public Scrutiny

- 2.8 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.
- 2.9 Again during 2017/18, 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 scrutiny⁵:
- Better outcomes
 - Better decisions
 - Better engagement

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

- 2.10 **Call-in of decisions:** Scrutiny committees 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 only exercise a “call-in” when there is good reason to do so (through a Test of Significance), and during 2017/18 this was exercised once, by the Corporate Scrutiny Committee. The Corporate Scrutiny Committee called in a decision made by the Executive on the transformation of the culture service (Beaumaris Gaol and Courthouse) in December, 2017⁶.

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 Council 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 2018/19.

⁵ Good Scrutiny? Good Question!, Wales Audit Office, 2014

⁶ Corporate Scrutiny Committee, meeting of 14th December, 2017: Transformation of the Culture Service – Beaumaris Gaol and Courthouse

Membership:

- 3.3 The Corporate Scrutiny Committee is chaired by Councillor Aled Morris Jones and supported by Vice Chair Councillor Dylan Rees. Ten Members sit on the committee and membership reflects the political balance of the Council. The Committee also includes Co-opted Members and the co-optees on Education matters have full

Voting rights on education related issues. 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 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. It is also the designated committee for scrutinising the work of the Public Services Board (Ynys Môn and Gwynedd).
- 4.3 During 2017/18, the committee introduced a practice of holding briefing meetings with members prior to each formal scrutiny committee meeting. This is regarded good practice and it is intended to continue with these arrangements in 2018/19.

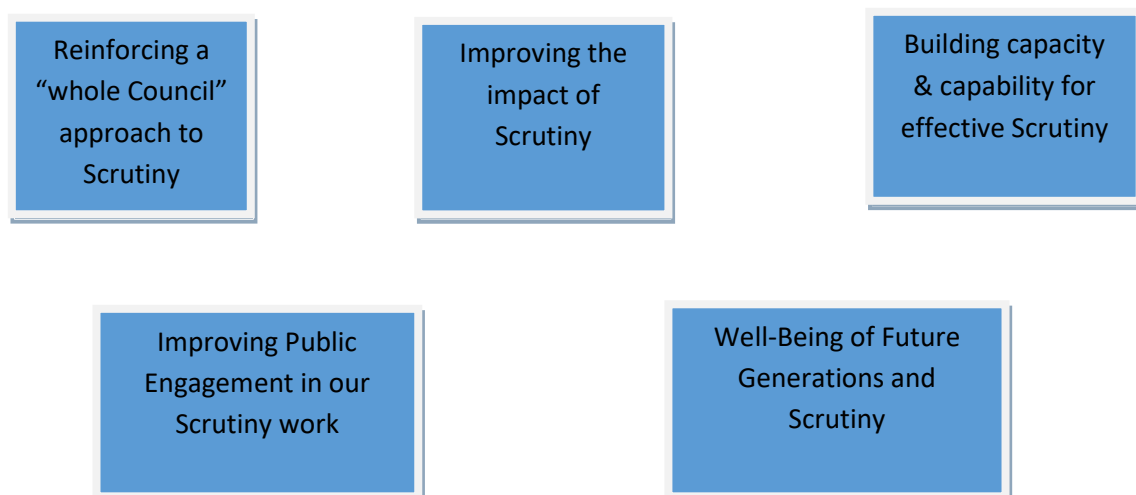
Membership:

- 4.4 The Partnership and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee was chaired by Councillor Gwilym Jones and supported by Vice Chair Councillor Robert Llewelyn Jones. Ten members also sit on this committee and membership reflects the political balance of the Council. The Committee also includes Co-opted Members and the co-optees on Education matters have full voting rights on education related issues. Full details of the membership of the committee is attached (**APPENDIX 3**).

5.0 LOCAL SCRUTINY IMPROVEMENT JOURNEY

- 5.1 During 2016, the Senior Leadership Team commissioned the Centre for Public Scrutiny to undertake a review of our local scrutiny arrangements, in order to provide the Authority with recommendations to build on and further strengthen the overview and scrutiny function in readiness for the new administration in May, 2017. The outcomes of this review provided a strong basis upon which to move forward, ensuring that the role Member scrutiny plays in the Authority's governance arrangements:
- Supports robust and effective decision-making
 - Makes a tangible contribution to the Council's improvement priorities
 - Continues to evolve.
- 5.2 Our improvement programme has prioritised a number of key themes (which are summarised below), in order to provide a robust framework to:
- Clarify the role and contribution of Scrutiny in the governance arrangements of the Council
 - Identify the actions required in the short and medium term in order to further improve Scrutiny.

SCRUTINY IMPROVEMENT JOURNEY: KEY THEMES



- 5.3 We are now working towards fully implementing actions in the third iteration of the improvement programme. Paragraph 6 below summarises progress made and begins to measure the impact of our improvements.

6.0 ASSESSING THE IMPACT OF SCRUTINY

6.1 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 now a well-established practice of forward work programming in place 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. Our local forward planning arrangements now ensure greater focus on:
 - i. Strategic aspects
 - ii. Outcomes
 - iii. Priorities of the 2017/2022 Council Plan and corporate transformation programme
 - iv. Work of audit, inspection and regulation
 - v. Matters on the forward work programme of the Executive.
- **Committee meetings** – a total of 17 scrutiny committee meetings were convened during 2017/18:






Committee	Number of meetings convened
Corporate Scrutiny Committee	11
Partnership and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee	6

There are also robust arrangements in place to ensure appropriate feedback at the Executive on matters that have been considered by both committees.

- **Scrutiny Panel meetings** – there have been regular meetings of the 3 scrutiny panels during 2017/18:

Panel	Number of meetings convened
Children's Services Improvement Panel	11
Finance Scrutiny Panel	8
Schools Progress Review Panel	11

These panels have been embedded into practice by:

-  Putting in place robust governance arrangements to support each panel
 -  Ensuring a clear focus / remit and work programme for the panels
 -  Putting in place a reporting / escalation process ensuring that the work of scrutiny panels is reported in a timely manner
 -  Ensure appropriate pace for the work of the panels, which is in line with corporate priorities.
- **Chairs and Vice-chairs Forum** – this forum is now in its second year of running and has met on a monthly basis during 2017/18. 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. The role of the Forum has also evolved during 2017/18 to include monthly conversations between the Executive (Leader), Chairs/Vice-Chairs of Scrutiny and the Senior Leadership Team (Chief Executive) to ensure better alignment between work programmes.
 - **Development, training and support for Members** – by:
 -  Putting in place a phased, bespoke development programme which focuses on the key elements of governance / scrutiny:

Code of
practice /
Constitution

Role & conduct of
Scrutiny Chairs /
Effective Chairing
Skills

Introduction
to Scrutiny

Effective
financial
scrutiny
skills

Roll out of E-
learning Portal as a
Member
development tool

Effective
scrutiny
questioning &
constructive
challenge skills

- ✚ Convening periodic information sharing / awareness raising sessions for Scrutiny Members on key issues (e.g. Wellbeing of Future Generations, role of the Public Services Board). Also, as a forum for Member self- evaluation / reflection on the performance of scrutiny.
- **Scrutiny across a broader base** – a broader approach to Member scrutiny has been developed during the year by:
 - i. Effective forward planning to ensure alignment between topics discussed at Member briefing sessions, scrutiny panels and full scrutiny committee meetings
 - ii. Clarifying the role of Members on corporate programme boards and ensuring robust, timely high level reporting to scrutiny committees, escalating slippage as required
 - iii. Developing the breadth of topics discussed at Member briefing sessions, in support of Scrutiny and ensuring information available to Members on strategic and transformation topics.
- **“Closing the Scrutiny loop”** – by having in place robust arrangements to:
 - i. Report on progress or escalate issues from:
 - ✚ Scrutiny panels to parent committees
 - ✚ Scrutiny committees to the Executive
 - ✚ Corporate programme boards to scrutiny committees.
 - ii. Enable and encourage self-analysis and reflection by Scrutiny Members in order to identify strengths and areas for further development / focus
- **Scrutiny & Wellbeing of Future Generations** – developing to role of Scrutiny by:
 - ✚ Ensuring Members focus on the 5 ways of working to frame questions
 - ✚ Developing a new scrutiny report template, placing wellbeing of future generations at its core
 - ✚ Raising awareness and providing information in Member briefing and development sessions
 - ✚ Reviewing progress made in developing the role of scrutiny against best practice
 - ✚ Putting in place a framework to scrutinise the Public Services Board and key partnerships.
- **Citizen engagement in Scrutiny** – developing a policy statement as the foundation to further develop our engagement with citizens through Member scrutiny and putting steps in place to ensure that the voice of citizens is heard in the local decision making process.

Measuring outcomes:

6.2 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:

- **2017/18 budget setting process** – a more strategic and outcome based approach to budget setting based on best practice⁷⁷ is becoming embedded in local practice. The Corporate Scrutiny Committee concentrated its efforts on a number of key issues which included scrutinising the impact of efficiency proposals and the quality of the public consultation pack. In moving forward, the Authority will further build on this work, ensuring the input of the Finance Scrutiny Panel earlier in the budget setting process (by focusing on scrutiny of process and timescale of efficiency proposals).

Outcome: this process allows for a more systematic approach to financial scrutiny, as an essential building block of sound financial management and governance.

- **Citizen engagement and participation** – scrutiny input to the budget setting process also included direct engagement with and a contribution from both the Isle of Anglesey Citizens' Panel and Youth Council (*Llais Ni*) which added value to the scrutiny function. Representatives from both panels took part in the process through:

- ✚ Meetings with the Senior Leadership Team, Chair of the Corporate Scrutiny Committee and question/answer session with the Council Leader
- ✚ Observed 2 meetings of the Corporate Scrutiny Committee
- ✚ Formal presentation to budget discussion at the Corporate Scrutiny Committee

Outcome: this involvement by local people in Member scrutiny has further developed our capability to ensure that voices of local people are heard as part of the decision making process (better public engagement). Also, a strong foundation is in place to improve outcomes for citizens.

⁷⁷ Raising the Stakes: Financial scrutiny in challenging times. A guide for Welsh local authorities, Centre for Public Scrutiny (2014)

- **Improvements and Performance of children's services** – scrutiny of the improvement journey in children's services has matured during the past year through the input of the Children's Services Improvement Panel. This work-stream has resulted in the following positive outcomes. In its recent review of progress in implementation of children's services improvements, Care Inspectorate Wales commended the contribution of the Panel:

"....We recognise the continued corporate commitment provided to ensure that children's services improve and the willingness to reach a shared understanding of the challenges being faced. Similarly the increased scrutiny and challenge from elected members has been a positive development...."⁸

Outcomes:

- ✚ A small team of Members who have developed a high level of knowledge about the complexities of children's services and a level of expertise in the service area
 - ✚ Development of a model of working that focuses on a smaller group, encouraging good attendance and teamwork
 - ✚ Creating conditions that are conducive to effective Scrutiny e.g. there has been a tangible improvement in the level and depth of questioning by the Panel
 - ✚ Scrutiny activity is well planned, efficient and objective and based on evidence from a range of sources
- **Review of School Performance** – Since May 2017, a scrutiny Panel consisting of Members from both Scrutiny Committee, has met with representatives of 4 secondary schools and 10 primary schools to monitor performance of the Island's schools. A report submitted by the Panel to the Partnership and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee on 6 February 2018 identified 10 key matters that would need monitoring to ensure continued school improvement.

Outcomes:

- ✚ 8 Members who have developed a high level of knowledge about School performance
- ✚ Development of a model of working that focuses on a smaller group, encouraging good attendance and team work
- ✚ Schools are aware of the Panel and that its focus is to assist with strengthening school educational performance on the Island

⁸ Correspondence dated 11/01/18 from Care Inspectorate Wales (Review of progress in implementation of Children's Services Improvement Plan)

- **Draft Wellbeing Plan (Ynys Môn and Gwynedd)** – On 8th March 2018, the Partnership and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee scrutinised the draft Well-being Plan of the Public Services Board. Following consideration of the draft Plan, the Chair of the Committee was authorised to submit the Committee’s formal response to Chair of the Public Services Board. A copy of the letter is attached to the report submitted to Executive on 30 April 2018.

Outcome:

- ✚ The Committee recommended to the Public Services Board that it approves the Plan but raised several matters to strengthen the PSB going forward.
- **Additional Learning Needs Partnership (Ynys Môn and Gwynedd)** – On 10th April 2018, the Partnership and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee scrutinised the Additional Learning Needs Inclusion Joint Service which had been established with Gwynedd Council during September 2017..

Outcome:

- ✚ Monitoring of the new service’s performance took place and further performance reports will be submitted to the committee on a six monthly basis.
- **Finance scrutiny** – financial scrutiny has developed significantly from a low base, during the past year with external expert input and guidance from CIPFA Wales. The panel have taken a strategic approach to scrutiny of financial matters and developed an effective questioning strategy to underpin their work. For example, interventions by the Panel in response to some significant budget pressures have triggered some positive mitigation measures by Children’s Services and the Learning Service. CIPFA Wales have commended this development journey:

“During the time we worked with the Panel there has been a distinct change in the way the Panel operates. Members now have clarity on their role, and those of officers in attendance. This has resulted in an effective use of time, improved structure and management of the agenda and a rigour in questions. Members are considering issues from an informed and broader financial base which is evident by the quality and nature of the questions posed. Questions and their approach demonstrates an improvement in confidence and also a resilience and determination to obtain satisfactory responses in a balanced and assertive manner. The development of a forward work programme to include items from the financial calendar, emerging issues and a programme of topics will result in the Panel adding real value to the scrutiny process over time. Being independent of thought and proactive in developing the work programme is a major development for the Panel”.

CIPFA Wales have been invited by Members to return in the Autumn, 2018 to assist the Panel in its assessment of progress and set the work programme priorities for 2019/20.

Outcome:

- More strategic and outcome based approach to financial scrutiny; evidence based scrutiny making a robust contribution to sound financial management and governance arrangements in the Council.

Measuring the Impact of our Improvement Journey:

6.3 The table below summarises the impact of some of our key areas for improvement during 2017/18:

IMPACT OF OUR SCRUTINY IMPROVEMENT JOURNEY

Theme	How	Impact
Scrutiny Vision	We have continued to mainstream the principles of our vision, ensuring that they are a core feature of our scrutiny work e.g. foundation to our preparatory work for the new Council; basis for our Scrutiny Member development programme.	Early signs of emerging evidence → increase in Member confidence; better scrutiny in committees; quality of Member contributions in panel work and maturity of questioning strategies; feeling of Team Scrutiny amongst most Members.
Member development and support	Bespoke development programme for Scrutiny Members with the objective of developing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scrutiny skills Increased levels of technical information on specific topic areas. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Our Scrutiny principles and values underpin Member behaviours Effective questioning strategies at work.
Scrutiny arrangements	Alignment of work	1. Better alignment between

Theme	How	Impact
that are fit for purpose	<p>programmes</p> <p>The following now happen as an integral part of the process:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Programme alignment conversations with the Leader and Chief Executive at the Scrutiny Chairs/Vice-Chairs Forum (monthly) • Monthly discussion between the Leader, Head of Democratic Services and Scrutiny Manager • Regular alignment conversations → scrutiny officers and heads of service <p>Scrutiny across a broader base</p> <p>Opportunities to scrutinise outside of the formal committee meetings → briefing sessions, panels, transformation boards.</p>	<p>all work programmes – matters of public interest being considered by Scrutiny</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. More of a focus on strategic aspects → Council Plan and transformation priorities, outcomes and risks 3. Scrutiny arrangements that are aligned; an effective contribution to our governance arrangements.
Scrutiny panels	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work programmes in place for the 3 panels • Expert input to support the Finance Panel (CIPFA Wales) • Assessment of children's services improvement programme by Care Inspectorate Wales. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Clear focus for the work of the panels 2. Model of working that focuses on smaller groups → good attendance, Members developing a level of subject "expertise", teamwork and sense of ownership.
Public Services Board	Foundation in place to further develop the work programme of the Partnership &	Too early to measure impact.

Theme	How	Impact
	Regeneration Scrutiny Committee – in order to scrutinise the Public Services Board and partnership working in accordance with national guidance.	
Scrutiny template	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Following a trial period, a new report template has been rolled out. 	Clarity of Scrutiny role → concise objectives, clear scrutiny questions.
Wellbeing of Future Generations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5 ways of working underpins the scrutiny questioning strategy. 	Place the 5 ways of working at the centre of the Scrutiny function.

6.4 Self-assessment of Scrutiny effectiveness

Our work around measuring the outcomes and impact of Scrutiny practice in the Council has also included some survey work with Members through small group discussions using some core questions as a framework:

- What were the highlights in Scrutiny during the past year?
- In your opinion, what impact did Scrutiny have during 2017/18 in supporting the Executive to make effective decisions?
- Are there any aspects that could be improved or delivered more effectively in the future.
- What development needs do you have to support you in the role?
- Any general observations on the influence and / or impact on the work of Scrutiny Members in the decision making processes?

What our Members had to say.....

75% of our Scrutiny Members took part in the self-assessment. Below is a flavour of what our Members had to say. The findings of this exercise have fed into our improvement priorities for 2018/19:

Much of the work was positive. Being a member of the Children's Services Improvement Panel was a highlight of me

Scrutiny is now able to hear the voices of people in our communities

Carry on with the current training and Member briefing sessions. I am keen to use E-learning but finding time to do the modules is difficult

In moving forward, there is a need to carry on with the good work and maintain the momentum. Possibly strengthen the link between the scrutiny panels and Portfolio Holders

Scrutiny is important and good work is undertaken by the committees

I was elected in May, 2017, so am a relatively new Member. I am on numerous committees and it has been a steep learning curve

I am a Member of both Scrutiny Committees. I have had an opportunity to consider a lot of matters but the highlight was able to scrutinise the Executive's draft budget – adding value to the decision making process

Scrutiny is important and is required. Scrutiny Committees keep people on their toes and assist the Executive in arriving at the correct conclusions

Training for Members is very important. The training so far has been excellent and it's just a case of carrying on with the good work

I think Scrutiny is working well here on Anglesey and the scrutiny panels allow us to look into things in more depth

7.0 LOOKING FORWARD TO 2018/19

7.1 The Authority will continue on its journey to fully implement the Scrutiny improvement programme. The following key areas will be prioritised for action over the coming months:

KEY SCRUTINY DEVELOPMENT AREAS

Theme	How
Vision	Continue to mainstream our Scrutiny vision
Member Development and Support	<p>a. Further develop the rolling programme in place to support and develop Scrutiny Members – focus on self-evaluation; chairing skills; scrutiny of performance data; financial scrutiny; information technology matters; E-learning</p> <p>b. Convene short, regular briefing/ development / review sessions with Scrutiny Members</p>
Scrutiny Panels	<p>Review the work of the panels to ensure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • clear, robust work programmes • appropriate pace and focus • areas of focus in accordance with corporate priorities
Citizen Engagement in our Scrutiny work	Build upon our initial work by formalising inputs from the Youth Council / Citizens' Panel into subjects of public interest
Wellbeing of Future Generations	Clarify the role of Scrutiny by further developing the Scrutiny report template and Scrutiny key questions
Public Services Board and partnership working	Develop the work programme of the Partnership and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee to scrutinise the Public Services Board and effectiveness of partnerships in accordance with national guidance



- 7.2 **Wales Audit Office Review of Scrutiny** – the Council will also ensure a timely response to the findings of the recent review of our local arrangements, through a robust action plan (which will be incorporated into our existing improvement programme). This work will be prioritised once the review report is available.

8.0 CONTACT SCRUTINY

- 8.1 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.
Anglesey.
LL777TW

Anwen Davies	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 GeraintRoberts @ynysmon.gov.uk

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY
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APPENDICES

Outcomes and Characteristics for Effective Local Government Overview & Scrutiny⁹











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 community concerns against issues of strategic risk and importance. iv) Overview & scrutiny meetings and activities are well-planned, chaired

⁹ Good Scrutiny? Good Question! Wales Audit Office, 2014

	<p>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 Aled Morris Jones (Chair)	Twrcelyn	Anglesey Independents		Cllr Dylan Rees (Vice-chair)	Canolbarth Môn	Plaid Cymru
	Cllr Lewis Davies	Seiriol	Plaid Cymru		Cllr Trefor Lloyd Hughes	Ynys Gybi	Plad Cymru
	Cllr Alun Roberts	Seiriol	Plaid Cymru		Cllr Nicola Roberts	Canolbarth Môn	Plaid Cymru
	Cllr Richard Griffiths	Twrcelyn	The Independent Group		Cllr Richard O Jones	Twrcelyn	The Independent Group
	Cllr J Arwel Roberts	Ynys Gybi	Wales Labour Party		Cllr Shaun Redmond	Caergybi	Anglesey Independents

APPENDIX 3

Membership of the Partnership and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee

	Name	Ward	Political Party/Group		Name	Ward	Political Party/Group
	Cllr Gwilym O Jones (Chair)	Llifon	The Independent Group		Cllr Robert Llewelyn Jones (Vice- chair)	Caergybi	Anglesey Independents
	Cllr Dafydd Roberts	Bro Rhosyr	The Independent Group		Cllr Vaughan Hughes	Lligwy	Plaid Cymru
	Cllr Alun Roberts	Seiriol	Plaid Cymru		Cllr Margaret Roberts	Lligwy	Plaid Cymru
	Cllr Nicola Roberts	Canolbarth Môn	Plaid Cymru		Cllr Robin Williams	Aethwy	Plaid Cymru
	Cllr Kenneth P Hughes	Talybolion	Anglesey Independents		Cllr Glyn Haynes	Labour Party	Caergybi

Members of the Partnership and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee during part of 2017-2018		
Cllr Alun Mummery	Cllr Carwyn Elias Jones	Cllr Eric Jones
		

APPENDIX 4

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.