

ISLE OF ANGLESEY COUNTY COUNCIL Scrutiny Report Template	
Committee:	Partnership and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee
Date:	11 March, 2021
Subject:	Scrutiny of Partnerships
Purpose of Report:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Submit an overview of work undertaken by the Committee between June, 2019 and November, 2020 2. Consider the Committee's forward work programme for 2021/22
Scrutiny Chair:	Cllr Gwilym Owen Jones
Portfolio Holder(s):	Cllr Dafydd Rhys Thomas, Portfolio Member for Corporate Services
Head of Service:	Annwen Morgan, Chief Executive
Report Author:	Sioned Rowe Scrutiny Officer
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Email:	SionedRowe@ynysmon.gov.uk
Local Members:	Not applicable

1 - Recommendation/s

The Partnership and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee is requested to note and support:

R1 Scrutiny of key partnerships undertaken during 2019/20 (**Appendix 1**)

R2 The partnerships it is intended to prioritise in the Committee's work programme over the next year (**Atodiad 2**)

R3 Proposed next steps as detailed in paragraph 5.11 of the report.

R4 To invite the partnerships where there has been slippage in the work programme as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic to discuss their partnership work to coincide with the Recovery period.

2 – Link to Council Plan / Other Corporate Priorities

This work stream will make a significant contribution to one of the key themes running through the Council Plan 2017/2022 namely – “The key theme running through the plan is our ambition to work with the people of Anglesey, our communities and partners to ensure high quality services that will improve the quality of life for everyone on the Island.”

3 – Guiding Principles for Scrutiny Members

To assist Members when scrutinising the topic:-

- 3.1** Impact the matter has on individuals and communities [**focus on customer/citizen**]
- 3.2** A look at the efficiency & effectiveness of any proposed change – both financially and in terms of quality [**focus on value**]
- 3.3** A look at any risks [**focus on risk**]
- 3.4** Scrutiny taking a performance monitoring or quality assurance role [**focus on performance & quality**]
- 3.5** Looking at plans and proposals from a perspective of:

- Long term
- Prevention
- Integration
- Collaboration
- Involvement

[focus on wellbeing]

4 - Key Scrutiny Questions

1. To what extent do the partnerships identified for inclusion in the forward work programme (paragraph 5.11) represent a fair balance of the Council's key partnerships?
2. Is the Committee satisfied that the report provides a robust foundation for the forward work programme during 2021/22 and beyond?
3. Does the Committee have any views on the prioritisation of partnerships to be scrutinised?
4. How does this emerging approach to cross-cutting scrutiny of partnerships comply with the Wellbeing of Future Generations agenda?

5 – Background / Context

BACKGROUND

5.1 Cross cutting Scrutiny: partnership working is an example of a cross cutting issue. The Local Government Bill places further emphasis on collaboration and partnerships and this way of working is therefore likely to further increase both locally and regionally. The Bill is also expected to provide national guidance on joint scrutiny¹. Our local scrutiny structure has evolved over recent years to include a designated partnerships scrutiny committee providing the platform for scrutiny of cross cutting, thematic issues. This approach is considered good practice.

5.2 Working in partnership has become an important part of the Authority's working practices, providing additional resilience to the Authority's service delivery capacity. Whilst partnership working can bring significant benefits, such as responding to complex challenges, providing flexibility and additional resources to service delivery, it is not always without its challenges and can carry significant risks not least to sustainability and cost effectiveness. A number of reports over recent years² have drawn attention to the need for improvement and strengthened scrutiny of partnership arrangements in public services.

5.3 Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015: the need to further strengthen scrutiny of partnerships is reinforced in the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. The Act puts long-term sustainability at the forefront of how public services are

¹ Joint scrutiny (sometimes called collaborative scrutiny) refers to any formal or informal arrangement that brings together scrutineers from different organisations to achieve something that could not be achieved any other way. Joint scrutiny can be a formal committee, a co-ordinating group, an informal task & finish group or any variation of these. It can bring together scrutiny councillors from two or more councils with non-executive scrutineers from other public bodies. Joint scrutiny can be a combination of these arrangements

² Commission on Public Service Governance and Delivery (Welsh Government January, 2014), Guidance for Local Authority Scrutiny Committees on the scrutiny of Public Services Boards (August, 2017) and Strengthening Local Government: Delivering for People (March, 2018)

designed and delivered, and places emphasis on public bodies working in partnership to ensure better outcomes now and in the future. Our local arrangements should also develop in a way that shows commitment to the Sustainable Development Principle of the Wellbeing Act. This means:

“Acting in a manner which seeks to ensure that the needs of the present are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs...”

Robust monitoring and scrutiny arrangements of our partnership working should therefore add value to our partnership working locally.

CONTEXT

5.4 The Isle of Anglesey County Council has extensive experience of working in partnership, be it on a local, regional or national level³. With increasing pressure on public finances, the Council has clear guidelines in place for determining when to establish partnerships, which service(s) and the outcomes expected of them and for the sound management of the relationship in order to:

- Enable us to deliver on our Council Plan and strategic priorities. Also, to improve the experience and outcomes for individuals who use our services
- Evidence value for money or cost efficiency in our future investments and ensure clear and measurable outcomes
- Respond to partnership risks and ensure that areas for development are addressed
- Have clarity around accountability and monitoring arrangements
- Identify any scope to rationalize partnerships and ensure a clear procedure for bringing any arrangements to an end.

This area of work focuses on partnerships where the Council chooses to work with other organisations in the private, public or voluntary sector. It does not include the links made through the procurement process⁴.

5.5 On 14th March 2016, the Executive approved a Corporate Partnerships Policy document as a foundation for our partnership working and also as a framework to guide partnership monitoring arrangements. In the policy a partnership is defined as:

“A joint working arrangement where the partners are otherwise independent bodies, agree to co-operate to achieve a common goal of community cohesion and to achieve it, create an organisational structure or process and agreed programme.”

SCRUTINY OF PARTNERSHIPS

5.6 A key objective of partnership scrutiny should focus on providing constructive challenge and an opportunity for learning and self-reflection rather than purely holding to account⁵.

³ Annual Improvement Report 2014/15 (Incorporating the Corporate Assessment Report 2015), Wales Audit Office December, 2015

⁴ Circumstances in which the Council would provide an opportunity to a range of organisations or individuals to provide their services for a specific purpose through a competitive process with the Council selecting one provider and confirming the arrangements by agreement

⁵ Guidance for Local Authority Scrutiny Committees on the scrutiny of Public Services Boards (Welsh Government August, 2017)

5.7 Characteristics of effective partnership scrutiny: national research⁶ has identified that partnership scrutiny arrangements are effective when the following characteristics are in place:

- Scrutiny is a “critical friend” for promoting joint working
- Performance monitoring by Members is done as part of their community leadership role (from the citizen’s perspective)
- A means to assess the complexities of partnership working
- Focus on improving partnership arrangements and ensuring the right outcomes for citizens
- Holding Members who sit on key partnerships to account.

5.8 Position Statement- Covid 19 Pandemic

As you are aware, as a result of the current pandemic, the Council has to prioritise its resources and the efforts of its workforce, so, maintaining “business as usual” is not possible.

The Coronavirus Act 2020 and the subsequent Local Authorities (Coronavirus) (Meetings) (Wales) Regulations 2020 reduce the legal obligations on local authorities in relation to meetings, whilst permitting remote attendance by members for any required meetings. The Council’s usual Committee schedule was revised as a result of this legislation, and the Strategy for Committee Meetings was approved on 12 May, 2020.⁷

Additionally, as a result of the pandemic, the requirement to scrutinise some annual reports was put aside, or the schedule was extended in order to undertake the work.

Both Committees met for the first time since the beginning of the pandemic during September, 2020, and since then, the Partnership and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee has met regularly and resumed the scrutiny work on partnerships and has complied fully with all statutory requirements. However, some partners that were scheduled have been postponed as a result of the pandemic, and the Committee’s work programme has had to be prioritised to complement local requirements and consider the pressure our partners were also facing.

5.9 Corporate Partnerships Register: the Council maintains a Register of all key partnerships which is reviewed from time to time.

5.10 The remit of this Committee extends to local and regional partnership arrangements. Details of partnerships scrutinised by this Committee during 2019/20 are summarised in **Appendix 1**.

5.11 2021/21 Forward Work Programme: the task of scrutinising partnerships needs to continue to be done in a managed way, focusing on the key strategic partnerships which enable the Council to deliver on its objectives and priorities. In order to add value, our arrangements for scrutiny of partnerships need to continue to be timely and proportionate. It is therefore proposed that the forward work programme of this

⁷ Strategy for Committee Meetings until April, 2021 (IOACC, May, 2020).

Committee prioritises an appropriate balance of statutory partnerships, key partners the Council works with and other bodies (service delivery), to include the following:

Name of Partnership	Member / Lead Officer	Scrutiny Focus	Timescale	Cross cutting Thematic issue
Statutory Partnerships				
Public Services Board (PSB)	Cllr Llinos Medi Huws	Governance arrangements & delivery structure	Scrutiny of PSB governance & delivery structure – 9 November, 2021	Wellbeing National expectation set out in Welsh Government guidance ⁸
	Chief Executive	Wellbeing Plan – scrutinise delivery to date	Scrutiny of progress on delivery of the Wellbeing Plan – 11 March, 2021	
		PSB Annual Report – Scrutinise previous year's Achievements / challenge future priorities	Scrutiny of PSB Annual Report – 15 June, 2021	
Community Safety Partnership (CSP)	Cllr Alun Mummery Deputy Chief Executive	Scrutinise partnership work through the CPS Annual report (rather than the work of individual bodies) by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scrutinising achievements of previous year • Challenge future priorities 	20 September 2021	Community Safety Ensure the Partnership delivers its obligations under S19&20, Criminal Justice and Police Act 2006
North Wales Safeguarding Board	Cllr Llinos Medi Huws Statutory Director of Social Services	Scrutinise governance arrangements, delivery and performance of regional arrangements	Date to be confirmed	Wellbeing Social Services & Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014
North Wales Partnership Board (Health & Social Services) (Part 9)	Cllr Llinos Medi Huws Statutory Director of Social Services	Annual report of the Regional Partnership Board: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scrutinise achievements of previous year • Challenge priorities for the year to come 	July, 2021	Wellbeing Part 9, Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014
Key Partners the Council works with				
Locality partnership working – Betsi	Statutory Director of	Scrutinise local partnership working with Health Board	Work programme delayed	Wellbeing

⁸ Guidance for Local Authority Scrutiny Committees on the scrutiny of Public Services Boards (August, 2017)

Cadwaladr University	Social Services			Statutory member of the PSB (Wellbeing of Future Generations Act 2015)
North Wales Fire & Rescue Service	Cllr Eric Wyn Jones, Richard Griffiths, Dylan Rees Deputy Chief Executive	Scrutinise local partnership working with the Fire & Rescue Service	Work programme delayed	Community Safety Statutory member of the PSB (Wellbeing of Future Generations Act 2015)
Natural Resources Wales	Head of Highways, Waste and Property	Scrutinise local partnership working with Natural Resources Wales	To be confirmed	Statutory member of the PSB (Wellbeing of Future Generations Act 2015)
North Wales Police & Crime Commissioner / North Wales Police	Cllr Dylan Rees Deputy Chief Executive	Scrutinise local partnership working with North Wales Police	Work programme delayed	Community Safety Police & Crime Commissioner monitors how the Police and others implement the Police and Crime Plan 2017/2021 Member of the PSB (Wellbeing of Future Generations Act 2015)
Medrwn Môn	Cllr Llinos Medi Huws Deputy Chief Executive	Annual report of the organisation to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Governance arrangement including risk management arrangements • Scrutinise achievements of previous year • Challenge priorities for the year to come 	Work programme delayed	Community Resilience
Menter Môn	Cllr Ieuan Williams Deputy Chief Executive	Annual report of the organisation to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Governance arrangement including risk management arrangements 	TBC	Community Resilience

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scrutinise achievements of previous year • Challenge priorities for the year to come 		
Welsh Ambulance Services NHS Trust	Deputy Chief Executive Cllr Alun Mummery	Scrutinise local partnership working with the Welsh Ambulance Services Trust	Work programme delayed	Community Safety Member of the PSB (Wellbeing of Future Generations Act 2015)
Other Bodies (service delivery)				
Additional Learning Needs & Inclusion Partnership	Cllr R Meirion Jones Director of Education, Skills & Young People	Progress report to scrutinise: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delivery and performance • Priorities for next period 	12 October 2021 & 13 April, 2022	Education & Skills Service delivery partnership with Gwynedd Council
GwE - School Improvement Service	Cllr R Meirion Jones Director of Education, Skills & Young People	Scrutinise the Consortium's Annual Report in order to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support GwE to develop business plans & ensure plans take account of the needs of local schools • Improve scrutiny of performance management arrangements • Ensure a range of strategies in place to support schools to improve 	8 December, 2021	Education & Skills National expectation that local authorities scrutinise regional education consortia
North Wales Economic Ambition Board North Wales Growth Deal	Cllr Llinos Medi Huws Director of Place & Community Wellbeing	Ensure that the Board is undertaking its role: As the Learning and Skills Partnership for North Wales. It is anticipated that the Board will have a representative on the Joint Committee implementing the North Wales Growth Bid; Of creating employment opportunities and improving transport links and digital connectivity in North Wales and the Isle of Anglesey	TBC (quarterly)	Regeneration National expectation that authorities scrutinise regional partnerships Councils have formed the North Wales Growth Board to finalise the Growth Bid and manage its delivery once agreed with the UK and Welsh Governments. The new body

				is a Local Authority Joint Committee with representatives of key partners
North Wales Regional Emergency Planning	Head of Democratic Services	Resilience of the regional service to assist the Council in dealing with emergencies as a result of severe weather, transport or industrial accident, water pollution or terrorism	Work programme delayed	Community Safety Civil Contingencies Act 2004
Cynnal	Cllr R Meirion Jones, Dafydd Roberts, Margaret M Roberts Director of Education, Skills & Young People	Scrutinise performance and value for money	TBC	Education & Skills

The above table outlines the intention in terms of scrutinising partnerships during the municipal year to come. It is recommended to invite the partnerships where there has been slippage as a result of Covid 19 pandemic to discuss the following aspects of their partnership work to coincide with the recovery phase:

- To share their story of responding to Covid 19 and the partnership work with Isle of Anglesey County Council
- What lessons have been learnt
- What will be the focus of the partnership work in moving forward. What will be done differently?

5.12 Role of Members on external partnerships: in acknowledging the important role of Elected Members on external partnerships, it should be noted that the Scrutiny Committee will require assurance from Councillor representatives on the following key aspects of partnership working:

- Delivery of work programmes / desired outcomes
- Governance arrangements
- Budget management
- Management of risks

Local arrangements will therefore need to be in place to support this role by Members, ensuring timely access to information by the Scrutiny Committee.

5.13 The Council has worked hard over the past year to further develop our local approach to scrutiny of partnerships:

- The Scrutiny Committee forward work programme has matured with the committee looking in detail at 12 partnerships between June 2019 and November 2020 (**Appendix 1** provides a summary)

- High level action plan (paragraph 5.11 above) to enable the Partnership and Regeneration Committee to prioritise its forward work programme for 2021/22 and beyond
- Periodic updates for Elected Members on partnerships through monthly Member Briefing Sessions.

Next Steps:

It is proposed that our local approach to scrutiny of partnerships be further developed:

- i. Further develop our high level action plan to enable the Partnership and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee to prioritise its 2021/22 forward work programme and beyond
- ii. Member development session on effective partnership scrutiny
- iii. Periodic updates for Elected Members on key partnerships through monthly Member Briefing Sessions
- iv. Develop local arrangements to hold Members who sit on key partnerships to account.

6 – Equality Impact Assessment [including impacts on the Welsh Language]

N/A

7 – Financial Implications

N/a

8 – Appendices:

1. Partnerships monitored by the Partnership and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee during 2019/20
2. The Partnership and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee's draft forward work programme for 2021/22

9 - Background papers (please contact the author of the Report for any further information):

Sioned Rowe, Scrutiny Officer, Isle of Anglesey County Council, Council Offices, Llangefni. LL77 7TW

Attachment 1- Scrutiny of Partnerships 2019/20

Partnership	Scrutiny Focus	Date
Gwynedd & Môn Additional Learning Needs & Inclusion Partnership	Scrutinise the efficiency and effectiveness of the partnership in order to meet the additional learning needs of children and young people of Anglesey	13 June, 2019
Gwynedd & Ynys Môn Public Services Board	2018/19 Annual Report	13 June, 2019
	Governance Arrangement	17 November, 2019
	Progress report on delivery of the Wellbeing Plan	11 March, 2020
	2019/20 Annual Report	21 September, 2020
	Governance Arrangement	10 November, 2020
North Wales Regional Partnership Board	2018/19 Annual Report	11 July, 2019
	2019/20 Annual Report	10 November, 2020
Community Safety Partnership	2018/19 Annual Report	12 November, 2019

	2019/20 Annual Report	22 October, 2020
GwE School Improvement Service	2018/19 Annual Report	21 January, 2020
North Wales Fire & Rescue Service	Scrutinise local partnership working with North Wales Fire and Rescue Service	4 February, 2020
Police and Crime Commissioner/ North Wales Police	Scrutiny of local partnership working with North Wales Police	4 February, 2020
North Wales Safeguarding Board	2018/19 Annual Report	4 February, 2020
Welsh Ambulance Service Trust	Scrutiny of local partnership working with Welsh Ambulance Service Trust	25 February, 2020
Medrwn Môn	The effectiveness of the voluntary sector on Anglesey through 2018/19 Annual Report	25 February, 2020
Regional Emergency Planning Service	Progress report on the work of the regional service	25 February, 2020
Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board	Locality partnership working	12 March, 2019

Attachment 2- Partnership and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee Forward Work Programme 2021/22

Name of Partnership	Member / Lead Officer	Scrutiny Focus	Timescale	Cross cutting Thematic issue
Statutory Partnerships				
Public Services Board (PSB)	Cllr Llinos Medi Huws	Governance arrangements & delivery structure	Scrutiny of PSB governance & delivery structure – 9 November, 2021	Wellbeing National expectation set out in Welsh Government guidance ¹
	Chief Executive	Wellbeing Plan – scrutinise delivery to date	Scrutiny of progress on delivery of the Wellbeing Plan – 11 March, 2021	
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North Wales Safeguarding Board	Cllr Llinos Medi Huws Statutory Director of Social Services	Scrutinise governance arrangements, delivery and performance of regional arrangements	Date to be confirmed	Wellbeing Social Services & Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014
North Wales Partnership Board (Health & Social Services) (Part 9)	Cllr Llinos Medi Huws Statutory Director of Social Services	Annual report of the Regional Partnership Board: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scrutinise achievements of previous year • Challenge priorities for the year to come 	July, 2021	Wellbeing Part 9, Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014
Key Partners the Council works with				
Locality partnership working – Betsi Cadwaladr University	Statutory Director of Social Services	Scrutinise local partnership working with Health Board	Work programme delayed	Wellbeing Statutory member of the PSB (Wellbeing of Future Generations Act 2015)

¹ Guidance for Local Authority Scrutiny Committees on the scrutiny of Public Services Boards (August, 2017)

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North Wales Fire & Rescue Service	Cllr Eric Wyn Jones, Richard Griffiths, Dylan Rees Deputy Chief Executive	Scrutinise local partnership working with the Fire & Rescue Service	Work programme delayed	Community Safety Statutory member of the PSB (Wellbeing of Future Generations Act 2015)
Natural Resources Wales	Head of Highways, Waste and Property	Scrutinise local partnership working with Natural Resources Wales	TBC	Statutory member of the PSB (Wellbeing of Future Generations Act 2015)
North Wales Police & Crime Commissioner / North Wales Police	Cllr Dylan Rees Deputy Chief Executive	Scrutinise local partnership working with North Wales Police	Work programme has slipped	Community Safety Police & Crime Commissioner monitors how the Police and others implement the Police and Crime Plan 2017/2021 Member of the PSB (Wellbeing of Future Generations Act 2015)
Medrwn Môn	Cllr Llinos Medi Huws Deputy Chief Executive	Annual report of the organisation to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Governance arrangement including risk management arrangements • Scrutinise achievements of previous year • Challenge priorities for the year to come 	Work programme delayed	Community Resilience
Menter Môn	Cllr Ieuan Williams Deputy Chief Executive	Annual report of the organisation to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Governance arrangement including risk management arrangements • Scrutinise achievements of previous year • Challenge priorities for the year to come 	TBC	Community Resilience
Welsh Ambulance Services NHS Trust	Deputy Chief Executive	Scrutinise local partnership working with the Welsh Ambulance Services Trust	Work programme delayed	Community Safety

Attachment 2- Partnership and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee Forward Work Programme 2021/22

	Cllr Alun Mummery			Member of the PSB (Wellbeing of Future Generations Act 2015)
Other Bodies (service delivery)				
Additional Learning Needs & Inclusion Partnership	Cllr R Meirion Jones Director of Education, Skills & Young People	Progress report to scrutinise: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delivery and performance • Priorities for next period 	12 October 2021 & 13 April, 2022	Education & Skills Service delivery partnership with Gwynedd Council
GwE - School Improvement Service	Cllr R Meirion Jones Director of Education, Skills & Young People	Scrutinise the Consortium's Annual Report in order to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support GwE to develop business plans & ensure plans take account of the needs of local schools • Improve scrutiny of performance management arrangements • Ensure a range of strategies in place to support schools to improve 	8 December, 2021	Education & Skills National expectation that local authorities scrutinise regional education consortia
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Attachment 2- Partnership and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee Forward Work Programme 2021/22

North Wales Regional Emergency Planning	Head of Democratic Services	Resilience of the regional service to assist the Council in dealing with emergencies as a result of severe weather, transport or industrial accident, water pollution or terrorism	Work programme delayed	Community Safety Civil Contingencies Act 2004
Cynnal	Cllr R Meirion Jones, Dafydd Roberts, Margaret M Roberts Director of Education, Skills & Young People	Scrutinise performance and value for money	TBC	Education & Skills
Housing Associations (Grŵp Cynefin Clwyd Alyn North Wales Housing)	Cyng Alun Mummy Director of Function (Resources) & S151 Officer Head of Housing Services	Scrutinise local partnership working	TBC	Housing Supply locally