

ISLE OF ANGLESEY COUNTY COUNCIL	
REPORT TO :	THE COUNTY COUNCIL
DATE:	8 MAY 2014
TITLE OF REPORT:	SCRUTINY COMMITTEES ANNUAL REPORT 2013-2014
CONTACT OFFICER:	Bev Symonds - Scrutiny Manager
RECOMMENDATION:	<p>1. To note and approve the Scrutiny Committees Annual Report 2013-2014.</p> <p>2. To appoint a Member as a “Scrutiny Champion” from May 2014 to May 2015.</p>

1.0 RECOMMENDATION

1.1 To note and approve the Scrutiny Committees Annual Report 2013-2014.

1.2 To appoint a member as a “Scrutiny Champion” from May 2014 to May 2015.

2.0 BACKGROUND

2.1 The Scrutiny Annual Report 2013-2014 encompasses the work undertaken by the two Scrutiny Committees between the Council's Annual Meeting on the 23 May 2013 and 8 May 2014. Throughout this period the Scrutiny Committees have been fortunate to have received contributions from various members and officers.

2.2 The Chairpersons of the two Scrutiny Committees led on the work during this period, and details are included in the attached Scrutiny Committees Annual Report 2013-2014.

2.3 At the previous Annual Meeting it was resolved to appoint Councillor Meirion Jones to serve as Scrutiny Champion from May 2013 to May 2014. The role of the Scrutiny Champion is not remunerated and he/she can either be an Executive or Non-Executive Member. The Scrutiny Champion's role is to:

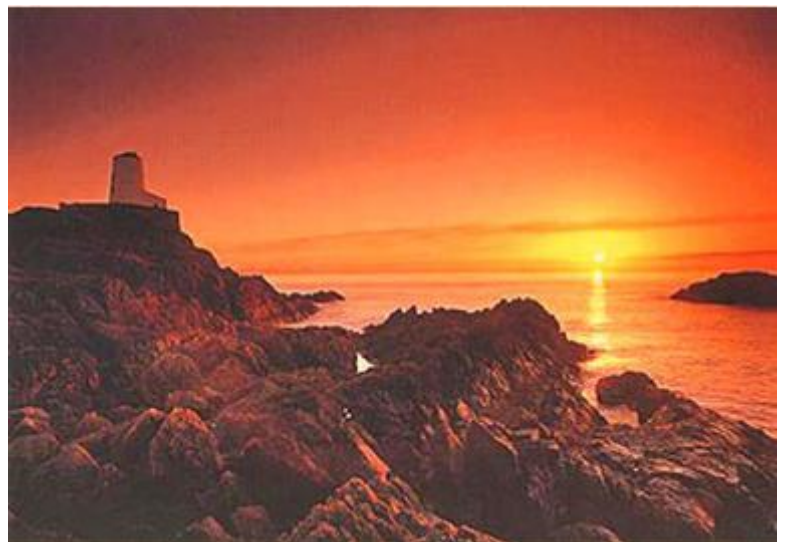
- Promote the Scrutiny function in and outside the Council
- Support the continuing development of Scrutiny in the Council.

Appendix:

Scrutiny Committees Annual Report 2013-2014



SCRUTINY
COMMITTEES
ANNUAL
REPORT
2013/2014



CONTENTS

	Page No
	3
1.	4
2.	5
3.	6
4.	6
5.	7
6.	12
7.	12
8.	13
9.	17
10.	18
11.	19
12.	21

Foreword

Councillor R Meirion Jones (Scrutiny Champion 2013-14)



With the elections in May 2013 the Isle of Anglesey County Council saw the start of its new structure of electoral wards with fewer members, 30 instead of 40, in multiple seats of 2 or 3, 18 sitting members were returned and 12 new members. The new Scrutiny Committee structure also came into operation with two scrutiny committees – the Corporate Scrutiny Committee, and the Partnership and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee.

This Report provides an overview of the first year of the 2 Scrutiny Committees and highlights the achievements of the elected members in undertaking their scrutiny role. The new Council has been aware of the recent history of the Council, with Welsh Government intervention and the appointment of Commissioners to take over the functions of the Executive, which came to a conclusion in 2012, and has wanted to re-establish the full functions of the Council including scrutiny.

Prior to May 2013 there had been 5 Scrutiny Committees with 4 Scrutiny Support Officers. Now there are 2 Scrutiny Committees and 2 Officers. This has inevitably meant that, despite a great deal of commitment and dedication for the Scrutiny Members and staff, the workload has had to be reduced. Nevertheless, working together as a team has allowed Scrutiny to undertake its duties effectively and efficiently. Scrutiny is building up a constructive 'critical friend' relationship with the Executive.

The Scrutiny Committees also played a role in the annual budget-setting process. With the financial challenges facing the Council, the Scrutiny Committees played a key role in challenging proposals and adding value to the process. There was also consideration of the process and of the outcomes. Many of the issues raised will be looked at by the Panel set up to consider the budget process.

It has been a challenging year, with many financial challenges. It is important that the Council continues to rise to the challenges and from a Scrutiny perspective that it continues to look at service improvement and contributes to policy development. From its experiences since May, Scrutiny is arranging to have more meetings and to concentrate on the important issues in more detail and depth.

1. WHAT IS OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY

1.1 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 required the establishment of one or more Scrutiny Committees to hold the decision-makers to account, drive improvement and play a role in assisting in policy development and review.

1.2 At the Isle of Anglesey County Council the scrutiny function was undertaken by two Scrutiny Committees during 2013-14:

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

1.3 The aims of Scrutiny Committees are to:

- Promote open and transparent decision making and to hold the decision takers to account in a constructive manner.
- Support the Council in achieving its vision for the county and its strategic aims and priorities.
- Promote continuous improvement, best practice and innovation with the services, functions and policies which the Council has responsibility for or influence over.*

1.4 The Scrutiny Committees can undertake their work in one of the following ways

- Consider a topic during a formal meeting.
- Consider a topic over a longer period of time by establishing a Scrutiny Review Panel.
- Conduct informal sessions on a particular matter.
- Undertake site visits.

2. SCRUTINY PERFORMANCE










2.1 An Annual Report is an account of stewardship for a given period and concentrates the mind on what has been achieved and what needs to be done. Scrutiny has agreed to move forward in a more modern business like way supports implementation of a Performance Management Framework (PMF). To this end, Scrutiny has a set of performance indicators by which to evaluate it:

Indicator Title(2013-2014)	Target (Q) – Quarterly (A) – Annually	Qtr. 1	Qtr. 2	Qtr. 3	Qtr. 4	End of Year
% of attendance of Committee Members at Scrutiny Committee	80% (Q)	85%	72.50 % ↓	89% ↑	76% ↓	81%
The % of Scrutiny Committee recommendations approved by the Executive	90% (Q)	100%	100% ↔	100% ↔	↔	100%
No of 'Consultative' items on agendas	5 (A)	0	2 ↑	1 ↓	3 ↑	5
No of 'Monitoring' items on agendas	5 (A)	1	8 ↑	5 ↓	4 ↓	18
No of 'Investigative' items on agendas	5 (A)	0	5 ↑	8 ↓	1 ↓	14
No of 'Pre-Scrutiny' items on agendas	5 (A)	2	5 ↑	3 ↓	4 ↑	14
No of 'Member Development' items on agendas	5 (A)	0	0 ↔	0 ↔	0 ↔	0
Overview and Scrutiny Committee Annual Report submitted to full Council each May.	1 (A)	Yes	N/A	N/A	N/A	1

3. Corporate Scrutiny Committee

The focus of the Committee's work will be to secure assurance regarding the performance / delivery of all services, ensuring 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.

4. Committee Membership 2013-14

	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 Jeff Evans	Ynys Gybi	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 Peter Rogers	Bro Aberffraw	Unaffiliated	1 Vacant Seat			

5. Committee Work Programme (2013/14)

The Corporate Scrutiny Committee met on 7 occasions.

Corporate Scrutiny Committee Work Programme 2013/14		
Committee Date	Item Considered	Outcome/Recommendation
29 th July 2013	Forward Work Programme	<p>It was resolved to accept the work programme as set out in Appendix 1 and to note its contents with the addition of an item on the effects of implementing that part of the welfare reform programme known as the bedroom tax.</p> <p>ACTIONS ARISING:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scrutiny Manager in consultation with the Chair to programme the additional item vis-a-vis the “bedroom tax” into the Committee’s work schedule. • Councillor Peter Rogers as the scrutiny representative on the Service Excellence Programme Board to brief the Chair and Vice-Chair on progress with regard to discussions at the Board’s September meeting in relation to the programme for transforming residential care services. • Director of Community to formally update this Committee on the programme for transforming residential care services once the consultation process with residents is completed.
	Committee Nominations 2013/2014	<p>It was resolved –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To appoint Councillor Ann Griffith to serve on the Corporate Parenting Panel • To appoint Councillor Peter Rogers to serve on the Customer Services Excellence Project Board • To appoint Councillor Victor Hughes to serve on the Smarter Working Project Board • To appoint Councillor R.Meirion Jones to serve on the Welsh Language Task Group • In the absence of nominations at the meeting, to authorise the Scrutiny Manager in consultation with the Chair and Vice-Chair to take appropriate steps to arrange representation on the Housing Allocations Policy Working Group. <p>ACTION ARISING: Scrutiny Manager to liaise with the Chair and Vice-Chair with regard to arranging representation on the Housing Allocation Policy Working Group</p>
	Anglesey Older People Council	<p>It was resolved –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To note the correspondence sent by the Anglesey Older People’s Council • To establish a Scrutiny Outcome Panel of this Committee to examine issues around

		<p>heating costs in the Council's sheltered accommodation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To nominate the following to serve on the Scrutiny Outcome Panel: Councillors Jim Evans, Ann Griffith, Raymond Jones and Llinos Huws together with the Chair or Vice-Chair to serve as Chair of the Panel. <p>ACTION ARISING: Scrutiny Manager to liaise with the Chair to agree and define terms of reference for the Scrutiny Outcome Panel and to make arrangements for an initial meeting.</p>
	2014/2015 Budget Assumption and Timetable	It was resolved to note the report and its contents
	Corporate Score Card Quarter 1 2013/2014	<p>It was resolved to note the corporate scorecard and the information it contains.</p> <p>ACTIONS ARISING:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Director of Community to report back to the Committee's next meeting on actions being taken to address service areas where the RAG status is red. • Director of Community to provide the service scorecard alongside the corporate scorecard to the Committee's next meeting. • Performance Analyst (AW) to liaise with the Programme and Business Planning Manager regarding the feasibility of services providing more narrative information in the Notes section of the corporate scorecard.
	Ombudsman Annual Letter 2012/2013 for the Isle of Anglesey County Council	<p>It was resolved to defer consideration of the Ombudsman's Annual Letter to the next meeting of the Committee.</p> <p>ACTION ARISING: Scrutiny Manager to confirm the arrangements for reporting to the next meeting with the Customer Care Officer.</p>
	Safeguarding Arrangements for Vulnerable Adults	It was resolved to note the report.
	2012/13 Annual Monitoring Report for the Welsh Language Commissioner	It was resolved to note the report.
28th October	Chair's Update and Feedback from Scrutiny Representatives	ACTION ARISING: Chair to liaise with Scrutiny Manager to determine the form and timeliness of feedback to the Committee from scrutiny representatives on the aforementioned groups and panels.
	Ombudsman Annual Letter 2012/2013 for the Isle of Anglesey County Council	It was resolved to accept the report and to note its contents.
	2013/2014 – Quarter 1 Capital Budget Monitoring Report	<p>It was resolved to note the Capital Budget position at the end of Quarter 1.</p> <p>- NO FURTHER ACTION ARISING</p>

2013	2013/2014- Quarter 1 Revenue Budget Monitoring Report	It was resolved to note the Revenue Budget position at the end of Quarter 1. ACTION ARISING: Director of Community to arrange a briefing session with Holyhead Elected Members with regard to developments in relation to the Social Care Transformation Programme in that area.
	Service Charges for Tenants and Leaseholder	It was resolved – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To note the findings and recommendations from Stage 1 of the project as documented in the report. • To note the comments made with regard to proceeding with the project and to refer them to the Executive. ACTION ARISING: Head of Service (Housing) to report the scrutiny feedback to the Executive.
	Corporate Scorecard Quarter 2- 2013/2014	It was resolved to note the position as reflected by the Corporate Scorecard for Quarter 2. ACTION ARISING: Programme and Business Planning Manager to report the scrutiny feedback to the Executive.
	Annual Improvement Plan 2013/2014	It was resolved to accept the report and to note its contents.
	Informal Care Adults –Local Commissioning Intentions and Priorities	It was resolved - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To accept the report and to support the vision underpinning the provision for Informal Carers; the proposed strategic priorities for Anglesey and the medium term outline Improvement Plan. • To note the Local Performance against the National Performance Framework.
	Education Post Inspection Action Plan	It was resolved to accept the progress report and to note its contents.
	Work Programme	It was resolved to defer consideration of this matter to the next meeting.
	Welsh Public Library Services	Noted for information purposes
15th November 2013	Capacity and Resources for Change	It was resolved to recommend to the Executive – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That the posts of Education Modernisation Project Manager and Social Care Strategic Transformation Manager be approved on the basis of a 3 years tenure conditional upon a satisfactory review of progress and output at the end of eighteen months. • That the posts of Assets Transformation Manager and Governance and Business Officer is approved on the basis of 18 months tenure as proposed. • That subject to securing the necessary skills and expertise, appointments to all four posts are made by internal secondment. ACTION ARISING : Chief Executive and/or Deputy Chief Executive to provide the Executive with comparative information about capacity in other authorities in the four areas to which the proposals relate (with a copy to Audit Committee Members)

9th December 2013	Chairman's Update	The information was noted by the Committee.
	2013/2014 Quarter 2 – Capital Budget Monitoring Report	It was resolved to note the report.
	2013/2014 Quarter 2- Revenue Budget Monitoring Report	It was resolved to note the report.
	Cycling Strategy	It was resolved to recommend the Cycling Strategy to the Executive with the comments made to be used as a lead document for the development of cycle facilities on Anglesey.
	Work Programme	It was resolved to note the current position as regards the Work Programme.
14th January 2014	Chairman's Update	The Chairman's update on activities was deferred until the next meeting of the Committee.
	Budget Consultation 2014/2015	<p>It was resolved –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To note the Executive's initial proposals for the 2014/15 Council Budget. • That with the consent of the Chair of the Partnerships and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee, the savings proposals pertaining to Leisure Services and the Sustainability Directorate be incorporated within that Committee's deliberations on the Budget proposals at its meeting on 15th January and, • That a meeting of the Corporate Scrutiny Committee be convened to receive a report back by the Chair and Scrutiny Manager on the deliberations from the meeting of the Partnerships and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee with regard to the savings proposals relating to the Sustainability Directorate and to Leisure Services and to sign off the Draft Budget Scrutiny report to be forwarded to the 10th February meeting of the Executive. <p>ACTIONS ARISING</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scrutiny Manager to incorporate the viewpoints expressed at this meeting of the Corporate Scrutiny Committee in the Draft Budget Scrutiny Report to the 10th February meeting of the Executive. • The Deputy Chief Executive to provide the Scrutiny Manager with information about the Corporate Health and Safety initiatives budget for its dissemination to Members of the Corporate Scrutiny Committee. • Scrutiny Manager to liaise with the Chair of the Corporate Scrutiny Committee to arrange a meeting to report back to the Committee.











	Work Programme	Consideration of the Committee's revised Work Programme to the end of April, 2014 was deferred to the next meeting of the Committee.
3rd February 2014	Chairman's Update	It was resolved to note the position as presented,
	Corporate Score Card –Quarter 3	It was resolved to note the performance position for Quarter 3 2013/14 as reflected by the Corporate Scorecard. ACTION ARISING: Programme and Business Planning Manager to report Scrutiny comments with regard to areas occasioning concern and possible mitigation actions to the Executive.
	Member Request for an Item to be considered for scrutiny –Closure of Junction B4417/A5	ACTION ARISING: Scrutiny Manager to co-ordinate the process of convening meetings of the panel with an invitation to relevant personnel to attend as required.
	Timing of Meetings	It was resolved to note 2:00 p.m. as the preferred option of the Corporate Scrutiny Committee's Members for convening meetings of the Corporate Scrutiny Committee.
	Work Programme	It was resolved that the Corporate Scrutiny Committee's planned meeting on 28th April, 2014 be re-scheduled for the reason given. ACTION ARISING: Scrutiny Manager to liaise with the Chair to arrange for a new date for the Committee's April meeting.
	Debt Write –Off	It was resolved to note the position with regard to the debts recommended for write off along with the comments made thereon.
17th April 2014	Chairman's Update	To be confirmed
	Annual Delivery Document 2014/2015	To be confirmed
	Outcome Agreement 2013-2016	To be confirmed
	Annual Education Report	To be confirmed
	Local Authority Core Data Sets	To be confirmed
	Housing Services Business Maintenance Unit	To be confirmed
	Work Programme	To be confirmed

6. Partnership and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee

The Partnership and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee focus is to ensure that the interests of the citizens of the Isle of Anglesey are promoted, and that the Council's priorities and resources are most beneficially reflected, in the partnerships, joint working, collaboration and external agency arrangements, as exist from time to time. The remit of the Committee will extend to local, regional and national arrangements and will include (but will not be limited to) those areas in which the Council has a statutory duty such as crime and disorder matters. In addition the Committee's remit also extends to regeneration matters and the "Enterprise Island" concept (or successor plans and policies).

7. Committee Membership 2013-14

The Committee comprises of 10 elected Members.

	Name	Ward	Political Party/Group		Name	Ward	Political Party/Group
	Cllr Derlwyn R Hughes (Chair)	Lligwy	Independent		Cllr Alun Mummery (Vice Chair)	Aethwy	Plaid Cymru
	Cllr William T Hughes	Twrcelyn	Independent		Cllr Richard Owen Jones	Twrcelyn	Independent
	Cllr Dafydd Rhys Thomas	Lliffon	Independent		Cllr John Griffith	Talybolion	Plaid Cymru
	Cllr Carwyn Jones	Seiriol	Plaid Cymru		Cllr Dylan Rees	Canolbarth Mon	Plaid Cymru
	Cllr Robert Llewelyn Jones	Caergybi	Unaffiliated		Cllr Raymond Jones	Caergybi	Unaffiliated

8. Committee Work Programme (2013/14)

During 2013/14 the Partnership and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee met on 8 occasions.

Partnership and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee Work Programme 2013/14		
Committee Date	Item Considered	Outcome/Recommendation
17 th June 2013	Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board	It was resolved to accept the report.
	Section 33 Agreement for the Specialist Children's Service	It was resolved to accept the report. Action: That the Head of Service (Children's Services) shall report to the Executive that the Partnership and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee supports the single integrated Specialist Children's Service in principle.
	Adults Safeguarding-Towards a North Wales Strategic Framework	It was resolved to accept the report. ACTION : That the Head of Service (Adults' Services) shall report to the Executive that the Partnership and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee recommends the following :- -Note developments and progress hitherto in the area of safeguarding adults in North Wales; - Approve the Anglesey and Gwynedd strategic direction for safeguarding adults as a catalyst for influencing the development of the regional framework; - Confirm the principle that the safeguarding frameworks for adults and children need to be addressed on an equal footing and not to differentiate between them in terms of their status or importance; -Approve revising the current North Wales arrangements and supporting the preferred option – a 2 tier North Wales Adult Safeguarding Board.
	Nomination of Member to the Corporate Parenting Panel	It was resolved to appoint Councillor Dylan Rees as a Member to sit on the Corporate Parenting Panel from May 2013 – May 2014.
25 th July, 2013	Partnership Unit Update	It was resolved to accept the report and presentation. Action: To request the Partnership Manager to attend the meeting of this

		Scrutiny Committee in November and to report on the issues raised as noted above.
	Dublin Declaration on Age Friendly Cities and Communities in Europe 2013	<p>It was resolved to accept the report and the recommendations contained therein be forwarded to The Executive.</p> <p>Action : To recommend to The Executive as follows :-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Consider the merits of engaging in a Wales and European wide network of excellence and innovation to create Age Friendly Communities by 2020; -Support the agreement to make a public declaration of intent as set out by the proposed Dublin Declaration (with the WLGA to co-ordinate representation through remote arrangements); -Support the agreement to participate within the thematic network on creating thematic Age Friendly Communities co-ordinated by the Ageing Well in Wales Programme (hosted by the Office of the Commissioner for Older People); - support further dialogue through the WLGA and the WHO, for Wales to contribute to adapting WHO's guidelines for communities by using Welsh communities as pilot sites; -Support accepting the WLGA's offer, comprising of a one day's free support/development training which will be negotiated by the Council's newly appointed Older People's Champion.
	Work Programme	<p>It was resolved to note the report.</p> <p>Action :</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) That the Partnership and Regeneration Scrutiny Committees Draft Work Programme be published on the Council's web-site. (2) To incorporate this Committees suggestion as items for discussion, as noted above, into the Draft Work Programme.
	Chair and Vice-Chair Update and Any Announcement	<p>It was resolved to accept the report and to thank the Corporate Programme Manager for her presentation.</p> <p>Action: That an update report on the work of the 3 Project Boards be submitted to a future meeting of this Committee.</p>
25th September, 2013	Economic Development on Anglesey: Overview, Opportunities and Challenges	<p>it was resolved</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To note the contents of the report and recognise the importance of the unprecedented economic transformation opportunity presented and the County Council's and Economic Development Units role in delivering the Enterprise Island vision; - To recognise the key role of the County Council and the Economic

		<p>Development Unit in ensuring local people, communities and businesses capitalise fully on the future opportunities;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To recognise the need to safeguard resources and capacity within the Economic Development Unit to support the delivery of the Enterprise Island vision; - To recognise the need for the County Council's financial resources as match funding to secure future EU and other resources to progress Enterprise Island. <p>-To invite the Skills Development Officer, employed on behalf of the 6 North Wales Local Authorities as part of the North Wales Economic Ambition Board to move the skills agenda forward.</p>
	Menter Môn	<p>It was resolved to thank Mr. Gerallt Ll. Jones, Managing Director of Menter Môn for his informative presentation.</p> <p>Action :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -To support Menter Môn to start negotiations with the County Council and the Economic Development Unit to discuss possible funding for projects contained within the report. -That arrangements be made to visit projects completed within the rural community who have benefited from the RDP grant funding. -That Mr. Gerallt Ll. Jones, Managing Director of Menter Môn is appointed as a Co- Opted Member of this Committee with no voting rights.
	Work Programme	It was resolved to accept the report.
	Chair and Vice-Chair Update and Any Announcement	Noted
21st November, 2013	Matters Referred to the Committee for Consideration in relation to a Call-in of a decision: Science Park development	It was resolved to endorse the resolution of the Executive in this respect.
28th November, 2013	Update on the Partnership Unit	It was resolved to note the report.
	Annual Review of the Community safety Partnership	Following a question and answer session it was RESOLVED to note
	Communities First – Ynys Môn	It was resolved to note the report the report and to request that Môn Communities First Ltd. publishes their minutes of Board meetings on their website and exclude any Confidential matters as appropriate.

		Action: To receive an Annual Report on the Communities First programme on Anglesey.
	Consultation document on the north wales fire and rescue	It was resolved to note the report. Action : To support the implementation of a 3 year financial plan for 2014/15 to 2016/17 that funds the current level of service, but that aims to limit the cost of doing so to the equivalent of an extra £1 per year per head of population.
	Chair and Vice-Chair Update and Any Announcement	Noted
	Work Programme	It was resolved to accept the report.
15th January, 2014	Proposed Establishment of Health and Social Care Integrated Delivery Board for Anglesey	It was resolved to approve in principle the proposal to develop an Integrated Delivery Board for Community Health and Care Services on the Isle of Anglesey
	Statement of Intent on Integrated Care for Older People with Complex Needs	It was resolved to note and endorse the recommendations of the Executive.
	Budget 2014/2015 – Executive’s Draft Proposals	It was resolved to accept the Executive’s draft budget proposals for 2014/2015.
	Chair and Vice-Chair Update and Any Announcement	There was no update or announcements to report by the Chair or Vice-Chair.
	Work Programme	It was resolved to accept the report.
4th February 2014	Timing of Meetings	It was resolved unanimously that the Partnership and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee should continue to commence at 2.00 p.m.
13th March, 2014	North Wales Residual Waste Treatment Project	It was resolved to accept the report and the recommendations contained therein. That the report and recommendations will be discussed by the Executive and the full Council in due course.

9. SCRUTINY COMMITTEE BRIEFING MEETINGS

- 9.1 Scrutiny best practice development is implemented by the Chairmen. A good example of this is the increasing number of briefing meetings held in 2013-14 by the Chairmen for respective Scrutiny Committee' Members.
- 9.2 Briefing a whole Committee helps to foster a team ethos. It also highlights the fact that Scrutiny is not politically affiliated and is there to make independent and constructive recommendations. Scrutiny is a team of acting apolitical Members coming together to gather evidence, by consensual questioning and analysis to conclude and provide an outcome i.e. a collective Scrutiny Recommendation.
- 9.3 Briefing meetings give the Committee members the opportunity to prepare for their formal meetings. Scrutiny Committee formal meetings are required by law to be open to the press and public unless they agree formally not do so when discussing sensitive official information.
- 9.4 Briefings provide the Committee members with a chances to digest the material being presented to them and thus for the Chairman to tease out the lines of enquiry each Members may have. The outcome is a line of questions to be shared with the relevant officer(s). The aim is not to waste valuable time at meetings, whereby an officer could be caught out with not having the relevant data with them, to answer the Councilor's question.
- 9.5 Early in 2013, the scrutiny support team introduced Briefings of Committees as a development exercise, showing with examples, the use of establishing a line of open questions to put to Scrutiny witnesses. This was planned to move away from previous scrutiny member behavior of individual members asking unplanned and unrelated questions. This was done to start to eradicate what the previous Recovery Board, Regulators and Commissioners had previously cited as 'poor behavior' in Scrutiny generally.
- 9.6 The Committee Briefings are the Chairman's opportunity to help develop the Committee and to clarify what is good practice in the eyes of the Wales Audit Office (WAO) and Welsh Government (WG). Other areas have also changed in Scrutiny in line with the W.G.'s requirement for modernisation i.e. Scrutiny have streamlined the Minutes, they are now shorter to the point, not verbatim, they are written for the public and to be more efficient.

SUMMARY - Meetings to brief Scrutiny Committees are for the Chairman to ensure how the Scrutiny Committee meeting will run and to enable:

- The Committee to present in a professional and organised manner and to add value to the governance process.
- To enable each member, to voice their individual grievances and opinion in private.
- Once all members have been heard, the Chairman will need to co-ordinate and understand their views in order to convert into questions and classify the questions. This will provide a line of questions for the relevant Directors/Senior Officers to aid their preparation.
- To enable the Chairman to start preparation for his summing up at the end of the scrutiny committee meeting and word the Committee's actions/resolutions for the Committee Officer.

- It is part of a Scrutiny chairman’s role not just to keep order at a meeting but also to improve the Committee’s performance. The Committee is being monitored by the Regulators to add value to the Council’s governance process as a whole. Scrutiny Officers are there to support the Chairman in his duties and advice and guide the work of the Scrutiny Committees.

10. WALES AUDIT OFFICE SCRUTINY IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

- 10.1 The Wales Audit Office (WAO) review “National Scrutiny Improvement Study ‘Good scrutiny? Good question!’ began in September 2012 (with all field work and reporting being completed to the WAO by May 2013). There was an understanding from the out set that the outcomes of the review would be presented at an all Wales Scrutiny Conference on the 28 November 2013 to share good practice areas between all the Welsh Councils. The review feeds into this year Annual Overview and Scrutiny Report.
- 10.2 This had been a very different way of working, insofar as **it had not been a “traditional” audit**, but one that involved real-time shared activity and working together, self-evaluation and peer learning exchange opportunities. The focus has been on gaining an insight and supporting and developing sustainable improvement and not just on providing assurance of processes. The study was undertaken in six phases:

Phase 1 (2012-2013)	Summer 2012 - Scoping.
Phase 2	September/October 2012- Initial self-evaluation,
Phase 3	05/12/12 – Initial North Wales Regional Workshop.
Phase 4	January to March 2013- Fieldwork through peer review learning exchange teams.
Phase 5 (2013-2014)	19/04/13- North Wales Regional workshop and final self-evaluation refinement by the 31 May 2013.
Phase 6	28 November 2013-National reporting and dissemination.

- 10.3 The WAO’s self-evaluation document was set out as follows:

- Questions 1 to 12 – Scrutiny Environment;
- Questions 13 to 21 – Scrutiny Practice &
- Questions 22 to 27 – Impact of Scrutiny.

Each question was broken down into the following elements:

- Findings & supporting evidence,
- Positive Aspects of Scrutiny & Areas for Improvement.

- 10.4 The W.A.O completed the study and issued their interim report in two parts:

Anglesey’s Final Self-evaluation. Consisted of:

- a) Anglesey’s original September 2012 evaluation.
- b) Gwynedd’s evaluation of the Scrutiny arrangements in Anglesey (April 2013) following their Peer Learning Exchange Team Visits.

- c) Anglesey's final evaluation during April 2013. Being mindful of the comments made by Gwynedd, Anglesey's Peer Review Learning Exchange Team agreed to resubmit our original Sept 2012 document as the final evaluation.
- d) An analysis of how Anglesey's final 'score' on each question compared with the other 21 councils. A lengthy document from the WAO was received, which contained all the responses submitted in support of the final self-evaluations divided into the following sections:
 - Findings & supporting evidence,
 - Positive Aspects of Scrutiny &
 - Areas for Improvement.

10.5 The final report provided a unique opportunity to explore and gain an overview of how each of the 22 local authorities in Wales delivers Overview and Scrutiny.

10.6 From a Anglesey perspective, participating in this study has provided a positive opportunity to compare and contrast on how we deliver and promote Overview and Scrutiny internally (i.e. in terms of its role within the democratic process, accessibility and knowledge of it by Members and Officers and how the citizens of Anglesey and other stakeholders interact and actively engage in the process). This has provided us with an opportunity to learn from others who have scored higher than Anglesey.

10.7 The study captured the enthusiasm (both Members and Officers) to embrace the networking opportunities which have arisen during the study e.g. Peer review exchanges as well as the two North Wales Regional Workshops.

10.8 **CONCLUSION:**

- Although only one member of the Study's Peer Review Exchange Team was re-elected during County Council election in May 2013 the said member was voted Leader of the new administration. Consequently, we have a Scrutiny sponsor who understands the Scrutiny process and thus how we can add value by assisting and challenging the Executive, to assist in good corporate governance.
- The final report from the WAO has still not been published (at the time of going to print with this scrutiny annual report). In the interim, the Scrutiny Manager has considered the WAO's interim report containing the self-evaluation evidence. Some of the areas of activity had already been addressed and were included in the Scrutiny Plan 2013/14. In addition, we have planned for the anticipated outstanding areas in our Service Plan 2014/15, to further enhance Overview and Scrutiny arrangements. The detail of the activity will be outlined in a follow up action Plan once the WAO's publication is received.

11. **SCRUTINY NETWORKS**

- 11.1 Anglesey Scrutiny Team is part of the
- North Wales Scrutiny Officers Network [NWSO].
 - National Welsh Scrutiny Officer Network.
 - National Scrutiny Chairmen's Network.
 - Wales Centre of Public Scrutiny.

11.2 The Anglesey Scrutiny Manager in 2013 worked with her professional Wrexham counterpart to work up the North Wales submission for 'Outcomes and Characteristics for effective local government scrutiny'. This was prompted by receipt of the characteristics that Scrutiny were to answer in the Wales Audit Office's National Scrutiny Study. Once our colleagues on the North Wales Scrutiny Officers Network agreed them they were forwarded to the National Welsh Scrutiny Officer Network. They were then agreed by the Centre of Public Scrutiny who liaised with the Welsh Local Government Association and the result a:

- **National Set of Characteristic for effective Scrutiny championed by the Minister for Local Government and the Auditor General**
- **"Scrutiny in the Spotlight: investing to maximise its impacts" document**

12. SCRUTINY ENGAGEMENT

12.1 The views and ideas of the public and other organisations with an interest in a topic under consideration are valuable in effective Scrutiny.

12.2 Best practice Scrutiny normally involves Members working with local people and organisations to provide effective and responsive services.

12.3 Scrutiny Committees will meet in public (except in circumstances where confidential matters are to be discussed) and the dates, location of the meetings and the forward work programmes are available on the Council's web site at <http://www.anglesey.gov.uk>

12.4 Partners and outside agencies may also be invited to attend Scrutiny Committees to enable the Committee to seek their views and observations on issues affecting the delivery of corporate objectives.

12.5 To find out more about Scrutiny in Anglesey or to give your views please contact the Scrutiny Team at:

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THE END.