

<b>ISLE OF ANGLESEY COUNTY COUNCIL</b>	
<b>COMMITTEE :</b>	<b>Partnership and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee</b>
<b>DATE:</b>	<b>15 September 2015</b>
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b>Update on Proposed Joint Local Services Board Scrutiny Arrangements</b>
<b>PORTFOLIO HOLDER(S):</b>	<b>Councillor Ieuan Williams</b>
<b>REPORT AUTHOR:</b>	<b>Joint Report by : Llio Johnson (Senior Partnerships Manager Gwynedd and Ynys Môn), Geraint Wyn Roberts (Scrutiny Officer of Isle of Anglesey County Council) and Vera Jones (Democratic Services Manager of Gwynedd Council).</b>
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## **1.0 RECOMMENDATION**

- 1.1 Note the update as outlined in the report.
- 1.2 A further update be submitted to the Committee once officers have had time to consider guidance issued by the Welsh Government to accompany the Well - being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015, and in particular information on establishment of the Public Services Board and the participation of scrutiny in it.

## **2.0 REASON**

- 2.1 The report is submitted to provide members with an update with regard to the proposed joint scrutiny arrangements of the Gwynedd and Ynys Môn Local Services Board.
- 2.2 Members will recall that on the 14 January 2015 the Partnership and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee of the Isle of Anglesey County Council agreed with the option to establish a Joint Gwynedd and Anglesey Local Services Board Scrutiny Panel (the Joint Scrutiny Panel). On the 15 January 2015 an identical report was also submitted to the Corporate Scrutiny Committee at Gwynedd Council, and following subsequent consideration of matters raised at the meeting, it was also agreed by them, on the 26 March 2015, to establish the Joint Scrutiny Panel.

- 2.3 In agreeing to establish a Joint Scrutiny Panel it was requested by both Scrutiny Committees that officers proceed to put in place practical arrangements, to include such matters as finalising the Scrutiny Panel membership and training arrangements.
- 2.4 Support Officers of the Local Services Board, Gwynedd Council Scrutiny Unit and the Isle of Anglesey County Council Scrutiny Unit have met to progress matters but have been cautious about moving too quickly due to the need, in April 2016, to put in place a Public Services Board to replace the existing Local Services Board. The legislation to establish the Public Services Board is contained the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015, which came into force on the 29 April 2015.
- 2.5 The current situation is that further guidance in respect of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 is due in the autumn of 2015 and should provide greater clarity on how to proceed with scrutinising the Public Services Board when it becomes operational April 2016. At this stage, however, the legislation is clear that the Public Services Board membership for our Area will include Gwynedd Council, Isle of Anglesey County Council, Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board, Natural Resources Wales and the North Wales Fire and Rescue Service. The Act also provides that the Public Services Board must also invite certain mandatory invitees (listed in the Act), together with the power to invite any other person to participate they consider appropriate. A mandatory or discretionary invitee does not become a member of the board by virtue of accepting the invitation.
- 2.6 The Local Services Board met on 26 June 2015 and recommended that the Joint Scrutiny Panel should proceed on the basis that its membership should reflect the statutory membership of Public Services Board. As both Scrutiny Committees have now identified membership to sit on the Scrutiny Panel, we will have to liaise with other bodies to provide nominees. Attached, and marked as **APPENDIX 1**, is the updated schedule summarising membership, governance and reporting arrangements and meeting frequency.
- 2.7 To progress matters further at this juncture is considered imprudent. Caution should now be exercised until publication of the formal Guidance by Welsh Government and for time to consider it. However we can confirm that enquiries have been made to identify a suitable training provider to provide bespoke training for members of the joint Scrutiny Panel once membership is in place.

Author: Joint report by Llio Johnson (Senior Partnerships Manager Gwynedd and Ynys Môn), Geraint Wyn Roberts (Scrutiny Officer of Isle of Anglesey County Council) and Vera Jones (Democratic Services Manager of Gwynedd Council).

Date: 24 August 2015

# APPENDIX 1

## **Membership**

The Panel to reflect membership of the Public Services Board. Representatives from statutory partners will bring a different contribution and perspective to the table, including their particular form of accountability and unique professional and service expertise. The objective is to create strong synergy by combining and building upon strengths and tackling barriers where they may exist. The following membership is proposed:

- 3 Non Executive Elected Members of Gwynedd Council;
- 3 Non Executive Elected Members of Isle of Anglesey County Council;
- 1 nominee from the Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board;
- 1 nominee from North Wales Fire and Rescue Service;
- 1 nominee from Natural Resources Wales.

## **Governance and Reporting Arrangements**

Although one of the main strengths of this model is its relative flexibility and that it is free from many constitutional strictures, there is a need to complete further work in order to fully develop the governance and reporting arrangements of the proposed Scrutiny Panel. The following guiding principles will underpin these arrangements:

- Provide a 'critical friend' challenge to the Public Services Board;
- Scrutinise, evaluate and actively promote improvement in work carried out in line with Public Services Board priorities and not that of those individual constituent organisations represented on the Public Services Board;
- Scrutinise, evaluate and actively promote improvement in developing and implementing projects to address the priorities set by the Public Services Board ;
- Submit reports to the partners or the Public Services Board (as appropriate) and make recommendations on measures which may enhance the impact of the Public Services Board ;
- Reflect the voice and concerns of the citizens and communities in Gwynedd and Anglesey.

## **Frequency of Meetings**

It is proposed that meetings of the Panel will be convened on a six monthly cycle. However a degree of flexibility will need to be applied as the transformation journey of the Public Services Board evolves e.g. Panel members may wish to consider issues on an ad-hoc basis.