

GWYNEDD COUNCIL

NAME OF SCRUTINY COMMITTEE	Corporate Scrutiny Committee
DATE OF MEETING	2 October 2012
TITLE	Gwynedd Council Performance Report 2011/12
PORTFOLIO LEADER	Councillor Dyfed Edwards

1.0 BACKGROUND

- 1.1. The Local Government (Wales) Measure places a duty on local authorities to make arrangements to secure continuous improvement and to account for it. We address this through the Strategic Plan and through our annual report on performance which is submitted to this meeting.
- 1.2 The process of accountability for performance takes place in two stages:
 - Stage1 - The requirement for authorities to publish their plans for improvement, and to include a set of improvement objectives (our Strategic Plan).
 - Stage 2 - The requirement for authorities to publish an assessment of performance relating to their plans and improvement objectives (Gwynedd Council Performance Report 2011/12).
- 1.3 Authorities are required to publish an assessment of their performance during a financial year by 31 October of the following year.

2.0 THE PROCESS

- 2.1 The process of producing the Gwynedd performance report takes place throughout the year. Improvements and performance measures have been monitored regularly by the Programme Boards which have been focussing on measuring progress against the outcomes in each area of work. These outcomes are known as the Gwynedd 'improvement objectives'.
- 2.2 In addition to this, the Portfolio Leaders of the previous Council, together with their Heads of Department monitor progress against their performance measures on a quarterly basis.

- 2.3 This work was supported by the Head of Strategic and Improvement and his officers through quality assurance and challenge.
- 2.4 The Council's scrutiny committees scrutinised achievement against the improvement objectives and the measures in their areas of work following the first six months of 2011/12. Further detailed work has been carried out by the Care Programme Scrutiny Working Group and the Working Group of the Main Scrutiny Committee on those specific areas. An invitation was provided to the Portfolio Leaders and the relevant Heads of Department to the meetings of those Working Groups to account for their performance.
- 2.5 In addition to this, a Performance Improvement Task Group was established by the Council's Leadership Group (now named the Corporate Management Team), which focussed on performance improvement within areas which had been underperforming in comparison with the rest of Wales during 2010/11. The Task Group worked with Heads of Service to focus on analysing the reasons for the underperformance and on developing plans for improvement.
- 2.6 The evidence and conclusions of the Performance Report 2011/12 were challenged in full by the Council's Leadership Group at the end of 2011/12, with their recommendations assigned for implementation.
- 2.7 The Gwynedd Council Performance report 2011/12 was submitted to the Cabinet to be considered on 26 September 2012, and it will be submitted to Council on 4 October 2012.

3.0 ACTION

- 3.1 The performance report is submitted to this meeting for the scrutiny of its quality. The members of the Scrutiny Committee are asked to assess whether or not the document provides a balanced, fair and accurate picture of the Council's performance.
- 3.2 This performance report is expected to inform the work programme of the scrutiny committees for the future.

4.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 That the Scrutiny Committee scrutinises the quality of Gwynedd Council's Performance Report 2011/12 and assesses whether or not it provides a balanced, fair and accurate picture of the Council's performance.
- 4.2 That any necessary further changes required to the performance report are carried out with the approval of the Leader of the Council in consultation with the Chairman of the Corporate Scrutiny Committee.