
CORPORATE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE, 11.09.14

Present: Councillor Dyfrig Jones (Chairman).
Councillor Jason Humphreys (Vice-chairman).

Councillors:- Lesley Day, Elwyn Edwards, Trevor Edwards, Aled Evans, Selwyn Griffiths, Siân Gwenllian, Eryl Jones-Williams, June Marshall, Dafydd Meurig, Mair Rowlands, Eirwyn Williams and Gethin Glyn Williams.

Officers present: Geraint George (Head of Strategic and Improvement Department), Debbie Anne Williams Jones (Members' Manager – Democratic Services) and Eirian Roberts (Member Support and Scrutiny Officer).

Present for item 3 below:-

Councillor Peredur Jenkins, Cabinet Member for Resources
Alwyn Evans Jones (Head of Human Resources)

Present for item 4 below:-

Councillor Peredur Jenkins, Cabinet Member for Resources
Dilwyn Williams (Prospective Chief Executive)

Present for item 5 below:-

Anwen Davies (Senior Partnerships Manager – Gwynedd and Ynys Môn)

Present for item 6 below:-

Vera Jones (Members Manager – Democratic Services)

Apologies: Councillors Gweno Glyn, Simon Glyn and Michael Sol Owen.

1. DECLARATION OF PERSONAL INTEREST

No declarations of personal interest were received from any members present.

2. MINUTES

The Chair signed the minutes of the previous meeting of this committee held on 5 June, 2014 as a true record.

It was noted that other matters had been discussed, and that they had not been included in the minutes, but it was clarified that those matters had been raised at the Preparatory Meeting held on 30 July. It was noted that members had not received the notes of the Preparatory Meeting, and the importance of distributing notes to members before the subsequent committee meeting was stressed.

It was noted that although Councillors Lesley Day and June Marshall had given their apologies for not arriving in time for the committee meeting due to issues with traffic, that their attendance at the subsequent Annual Working Group had been noted.

3. GWYNEDD AMDANI

Cabinet Member: Councillor Peredur Jenkins

- (A) Submitted – the report of the Cabinet Member for Resources providing an update on the Council's plans to lead on an arrangement to procure cheaper energy for the county's communities, and/or to facilitate and promote the *Cyd Cymru* (Wales Together) scheme and its associated benefits to the residents of the county.
- (B) The following matters were discussed during the discussion:-
- Concern about the lack of progress on this issue and the fact that officers had not contacted other councils that ran successful schemes.
 - Concerns regarding the *Cyd Cymru* scheme and a suggestion that the way to improve it was by referring more people through the Council's website and *Newyddion Gwynedd*.
 - The possibility that the Council could establish and run its own scheme as well as the associated resource implications.

RESOLVED to ask the Cabinet Member for Resources to investigate all the options, including the costs, and to report back to the committee.

4. SYSTEMS THINKING

Cabinet Member: Councillor Peredur Jenkins

- (A) Submitted – the report of the Cabinet Member for Resources responding specifically to a series of questions raised at the Preparatory Meeting.
- (B) The following matters were considered during the discussion:-
- The link between Systems Thinking and *Ffordd Gwynedd* and the implication of any potential merger of councils on this.
 - The lessons learnt from the two pilots in the Homelessness and Maintenance Units. It was noted that hundreds of steps had been removed from the Maintenance Unit's processes. At the request of a member, the Prospective Chief Executive agreed to provide members with data on monitoring progress in these two areas.
 - The scheme's main aim is to serve the people of Gwynedd in a far more effective way. This can lead to savings from the change of culture amongst Council staff – less direction and management, giving workers the tools to make decisions, but savings are not the main objective.
 - How to cascade the change in culture throughout the Council, and the timetable for achieving this.
 - Ownership of multi-departmental problems.
 - The need for risk management.
 - The benefits of seeking the opinion of experts, e.g. from a university, on the Council's approach to systems thinking.

The members expressed their wish to see progress on this matter.

5. GWYNEDD AND YNYS MÔN LOCAL SERVICES BOARD TRANSFORMATION JOURNEY

Cabinet Member: Councillor Dyfed Edwards

- (A) Submitted – report from the Senior Partnerships Manager detailing the initial steps in the journey to transform the Local Services Board, and the intended next steps to

further develop elected member scrutiny arrangements underpinning the work of the LSB.

- (B) The Senior Partnerships Manager elaborated on the results of the initial recent discussions between officers of both councils.
- (C) The following matters were considered during the discussion:-
- Concern that the Assembly could remove services from councils, and the need to pressurise the Government to declare what their plans were, so that the boards were not kept in the dark.
 - The type of principles that lead the discussion regarding joint scrutiny and the headings that arose from the first meeting.
 - The problems facing South Gwynedd and the fact that any arrangements must address the needs of the whole county.
 - How the Wales Audit Office's audit was likely to feed into the Local Services Board's development journey.
 - The need to ensure that Gwynedd and Môn shared the same mind-set and understood each other.
 - The level of representation by the other bodies.
 - Timing of the corporate assessment.
 - That there was a need to know what formal arrangements existed between Gwynedd and Môn Councils regarding holding high level discussions to prepare the way for merging the councils and the need to scrutinise the progress of the specific work needed to be achieved under this.

RESOLVED that the next Preparatory Meeting should consider how this matter integrates into the Scrutiny Committee's work programme.

6. LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN SCRUTINY INVESTIGATION - COLLABORATION

Submitted – the investigation brief.

RESOLVED

- (a) **To establish a Scrutiny Investigation and to appoint the Chair, Councillor Dyfrig Jones, and Councillors Trevor Edwards and Eirwyn Williams, as members of the Investigation.**
- (b) **That Vera Jones, Member Manager – Democratic Services seeks 2-3 other members to participate in the investigation, and to speak to the Communities Scrutiny Investigation if required, and to confirm membership in the next Preparatory Meeting on 2 October.**

At the end of the meeting, the Chair noted that the Scrutiny Forum would meet frequently over the next weeks to discuss the savings, and as it was not possible for him and the Vice-chair to be present in all those meetings, it would be beneficial if another member of the committee could volunteer to attend in their absence. Councillor Sian Gwenllian agreed to assist according to the need.

The meeting commenced at 10.00am and concluded at 12.25pm.