

NAME OF SCRUTINY COMMITTEE	Corporate Scrutiny Committee
DATE OF MEETING	26 March 2015
TITLE	Proposed Scrutiny Arrangements of the Joint Local Services Board – A further report on the options
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1.0 BACKGROUND

1.1 The Corporate Scrutiny Committee received a report at its meeting on 15 January, 2015, outlining the initial direction of the proposed arrangements for scrutinising the Local Services Board. Three initial options were developed as follows:

- A) Continue with the existing arrangements in both counties
- B) Establish a scrutiny panel with membership from both counties and other bodies
- C) Establish a Gwynedd and Anglesey Scrutiny Committee (and invite other bodies when it is timely)

1.2 There was a good discussion at the meeting and a further report was requested following raising specific fields of concern by elected members. The concerns raised involved clear political accountability, undemocratic bodies being part of the scrutiny process, panel membership and a clear reporting path to the Council.

1.3 To facilitate the development work further in these fields of concern, it was decided to hold a workshop in the Scrutiny Chairs Forum to discuss these matters and to try to work towards a clear resolution, with independent and expert advice and assistance from Rebecca David-Knight from the Centre for Public Scrutiny.

1.4 The meeting was held on 25 February, 2015 and this report includes the recommendations of Members of the Scrutiny Forum, along with Councillor John Wyn Jones and R. H. Wyn Williams who attended the workshop to represent the Corporate Scrutiny Committee.

2.0 OPTION B

2.1 The diagram below provides a rough outline of the responsibilities for the joint scrutiny 'panel' and shows the reporting and accountability paths as discussed in the workshop.

2.2 Arrangements for securing recommendations and reporting.

SCRUTINY PANEL -

Examine Why? What? Results?



The Panel draws up recommendations to be submitted directly to the Local Services Board
i.e. delegate the power to the Panel

If there is a specific matter of concern for the Council, then report back to the Council.

To report back via the relevant preparatory meetings in the field to be discussed and then decide whether a matter needs to be further addressed and to report to the relevant Scrutiny Committee (e.g. an issue regarding vulnerable people to the services preparatory meeting).

2.3. Membership

- i) Gwynedd Council to report that it recommends that the other bodies identify an individual from the non-operational side of their organisation - an independent person (e.g. their scrutinisers or internal audit), but bearing in mind that the individual must possess the appropriate skills to be able to scrutinise effectively.
- ii) Three Members from Gwynedd to be identified as follows:
Chair of the Scrutiny Forum
The Services Scrutiny Committee and the Communities Scrutiny Committee to identify a representative and to ensure that the three representatives are seriously committed to undertake the duties.

2.4 The Forum also noted that they recommended trialling the procedure for a period of a year before reassessing the arrangements and their success at that time.

3 RECOMMENDATIONS

The Scrutiny Forum recommends that the Services Scrutiny Corporate should:

- Support Option B, ensuring that the reporting procedure noted in 2.2. is incorporated
- To report to the group which is drawing up more detailed arrangements on the recommendation regarding membership noted in 2.3(i)
- To trial the arrangements for a period of a year prior to further assessment.

APPENDIX 2

Membership

There are various options available when considering membership of the Scrutiny Panel of the LSB. It is considered that it is best practice, however, that such a Panel includes representatives of partnership agencies. Representatives from the partners will bring a different contribution and perspective to the Board including their own specific form of accountability and their unique service and professional expertise. The aim is to create a strong synergy by amalgamating and building on strengths and address barriers where they could exist. The following membership is proposed based on good practice:-

- 3 Elected Members of Gwynedd Council who are not on the Executive Committee
- 3 Elected Members of Isle of Anglesey County Council who are not on the Executive Committee
- 1 nominated from Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board
- 1 nominated from North Wales Police
- 1 nominated from the North Wales Fire and Rescue Service
- 1 nominated from Mantell Gwynedd
- 1 nominated from Medrwn Môn.

Governance and Reporting back Arrangements

One of the main strengths of this model is its flexibility. Further work must be completed to develop the governance and reporting back arrangements in full for the proposed Scrutiny Panel. The following guidelines will be a basis for these arrangements:-

- Provide a 'critical friend' challenge for the Local Services Board.
- Actively scrutinise, evaluate and promote improvement in the work undertaken in accordance with the Local Services Board's priorities and not those of the individual organisations that form part of the Board and are represented on the Local Services Board.
- Scrutinise, evaluate and actively promote improvement in terms of developing and implementing projects to address the priorities established by the Local Services Board.
- Submit reports to the partners or the LSB (as appropriate) and make recommendations on measures that could improve the impact of the Local Services Board.
- Reflect the voice and concerns of citizens and communities in Gwynedd and Anglesey.

Frequency of Meetings

It is proposed that meetings of the Panel will be called every six months. However, there will have to be some flexibility in the evolution of the transformation of the Local Services Board e.g. perhaps members of the Panel would wish to consider matters in an ad-hoc manner.