



# Complete Agenda

Democratic Services  
Council Offices  
CAERNARFON  
Gwynedd  
LL55 1SH

Meeting

**COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

Date and Time

**10.30 am, THURSDAY, 22ND FEBRUARY, 2018**

**NOTE: A BRIEFING SESSION WILL BE HELD FOR MEMBERS ONLY**

**AT 10:00AM.**

Location

**Siambwr Hywel Dda, Council Offices, Caernarfon, Gwynedd, LL55 1SH**

**\* NOTE**

**This meeting will be webcast**

**<http://www.gwynedd.public-i.tv/core/portal/home>**

Contact Point

**Lowri Haf Evans**

**01286 679878**

**lowrihafevans@gwynedd.llyw.cymru**

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# **COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

## **MEMBERSHIP (18)**

### **Plaid Cymru (10)**

#### Councillors

Elwyn Edwards  
Berwyn Parry Jones  
Catrin Elen Wager  
Simon Glyn

Annwen Hughes  
Linda Morgan  
Gethin Glyn Williams

Aled Wyn Jones  
Edgar Wyn Owen  
Gruffydd Williams

### **Independent (5)**

#### Councillors

Peter Antony Garlick  
Kevin Morris Jones  
Elwyn Jones

Keith Jones  
Mike Stevens

### **Llais Gwynedd (2)**

#### Councillors

Robert Glyn Daniels

Owain Williams

### **Lib / Lab (1)**

Stephen W. Churchman

### **Ex-officio Members**

Chair and Vice-Chair of the Council

# AGENDA

## 1. APOLOGIES

To receive any apologies for absence.

## 2. DECLARATION OF PERSONAL INTEREST

To receive any declaration of personal interest

## 3. URGENT ITEMS

To note any items that are a matter of urgency in the view of the Chairman for consideration.

## 4. MINUTES

4 - 7

The Chairman shall propose that the minutes of the meeting of this Committee, held on 7.12.17 be signed as a true record.

## 5. PUBLIC SERVICE BOARD

8 - 25

**Cabinet Member: Councillor Dyfrig Siencyn**

To consider the report of the Cabinet Member

## 6. SUSTAINABILITY BALANCE

26 - 28

**Cabinet Member: Councillor Dafydd Meurig**

Consider the report of The Head of Environment

## 7. PLANNING DELEGATION PLAN

29 - 42

**Cabinet Member: Councillor Dafydd Meurig**

Consider the report of The Head of Environment

## 8. PLANNING AND THE WELSH LANGUAGE SCRUTINY INVESTIGATION UPDATE 43 - 50

**Cabinet Member: Councillor Dafydd Meurig**

To receive an update on the investigation

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## COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE, TUESDAY 7 DECEMBER 2017

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### PRESENT:

**COUNCILLORS:** Glyn Daniels, Elwyn Edwards, Peter Garlick, Simon Glyn, Annwen Hughes, Aled W Jones, Berwyn Parry Jones, Keith Jones, Kevin Morris Jones, Linda Morgan, Edgar Wyn Owen, Mike Stevens, Gruffydd Williams and Owain Williams.

**OFFICERS:** Gareth James (Member Support and Scrutiny Manager) and Lowri Haf Evans (Member Support Officer).

### ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

- a) In relation to item 5 on the agenda - Dafydd Meurig (Cabinet Member - Environment), Dafydd Wyn Williams (Head of Environment Department), Meirion Williams (Senior Manager – Transportation and Street Care) and Wyn Williams (Environment Manager).

In relation to item 6 on the agenda - Dafydd Meurig (Cabinet Member - Environment), Dafydd Wyn Williams (Head of Environment Department), Gareth Jones (Senior Planning and Environment Manager), Nia Haf Davies (Joint Planning Policy Unit Manager) and Geraint Owen (Head of Democratic Services).

In relation to item 7 on the agenda - Dafydd Meurig (Cabinet Member - Environment) Dafydd Wyn Williams (Head of Environment Department) and Gareth Jones (Senior Planning and Environment Manager).

### 1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillors Stephen Churchman, Catrin Wager and Gethin Glyn Williams

### 2. DECLARATION OF PERSONAL INTEREST

None to note

### 3. URGENT ITEMS

None to note

### 4. MINUTES

The minutes of the previous meeting of this committee, held on 10.10.2017, were accepted as a true record of the meeting.

### 5. REVIEW OF RIGHTS OF WAY IMPROVEMENT PLAN

- a) Submitted - a report by the Cabinet Member, providing an update on the progress made with the work of preparing a review of the Rights of Way Improvement Plan. It was reported that the work of preparing the Improvement Plan had been divided into two parts, namely

to review and prepare an Action Statement. When reviewing, it was considered to evaluate to what extent the objectives had been achieved in the previous plan, assess the network's current condition and discover to what extent the rights of way would satisfy the public's requirements. In order to establish a picture of the current situation in terms of the network's condition and to seek the public's opinion, a public consultation had been held by preparing a digital questionnaire. It was added that 1,386 valid responses had been received, which was very encouraging.

It was explained that the draft action statement (which was included with the report) attempted to identify the main work themes and the actions for the Rights of Way Improvement Plan, and that this would be the basis for preparing a detailed work programme. It was hoped to establish a realistic and attainable work programme in addition to avoiding some of the weaknesses of the previous plan.

b) During the discussion the following observations were noted:

- The programme was challenging, given the Council's savings plan
- There was a lack of information about the access available to the public
- Did the budget respond to the priorities of the questionnaire's respondents?
- It was difficult to believe that no maps of the paths were available on the Council's website
- Has consideration been given to further plans for the future should the *precept* of the Community Councils reduce or come to an end?

In response to a question regarding the contribution of the National Park and the Coast Path to the network, it was emphasised that Natural Resources Wales contributed £80k per year but there were no detailed figures on the National Park's expenditure.

In response to an observation regarding the work programme themes' priorities, it was emphasised that aspects of each theme would receive attention, but that this would depend on the available resources.

In response to an observation regarding the path categories and whether priority should be given to category 1 and what would happen to category 4, the Cabinet Member emphasised that it would be difficult to keep a balance between the categories and there was no intention of ignoring category 4. It was added that the Unit would continue to investigate, collaborate and attempt to keep access open.

In response to an observation should there be obstructions on the lowest categories, it was emphasised that the information needed to be shared in order to attempt to resolve the obstructions. It was added that it would be the landowner's responsibility to restore gates and stiles.

In response to an observation regarding developing maps on the website, it was highlighted that discussions had been held and that the support of the Council's Website Department was needed in order to implement further. It was noted that many had asked for the service and therefore the hope was to develop maps in future.

In response to an observation regarding the possibility of Community Councils failing to cope with additional responsibilities and whether there was statutory legislation noting that the Council was required to ensure that it maintained all paths, it was reported that it was the Council's responsibility to ensure access. Nevertheless, it was emphasised that category 1 and 2 would be prioritised, unless there was sufficient evidence to show that more use was made of category 3 and 4.

An observation was received that it would not be possible to depend on the Community Councils to do the work as they had increasing responsibilities.

In response to an observation that should the *precept* of Community Councils to maintain paths be reduced, and if a further plan was in place, it was noted that the Department had attempted to safeguard the Community Councils' money, but it would be difficult to know how much money would be available in future. Nevertheless, it was added that the Unit had expert staff who would be offering training, use of equipment and support, and the need to consider the possibility of collaborating with community plans such as Tref Werdd. It was added that there was no money in reserve, but the categories' money would need to be used and to prepare the Community Councils to do the work. It was also noted that the plan was reviewed every two years to assess whether the plan was too ambitious.

c) The report was accepted.

## 6. SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING GUIDANCE

a) Submitted - for information, the report of the Cabinet Member, setting the background and purpose of the Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) in addition to information based on the policies for SPG: Maintaining and Creating Unique and Sustainable Communities. It was explained that the SPG gave detailed and clear guidance on how the policies of the Local Development Plan, which had been adopted by Gwynedd Council and Anglesey Council in July 2017, were being used. It was added that the Plan's various policies had an important role to play when supporting, maintaining and creating unique and sustainable urban and rural communities, by ensuring that Councils would meet their statutory duties to promote sustainable development.

The Full Council's decision on 28 July 2017 was to prioritise SPG Maintaining and Creating Unique and Sustainable Communities when preparing the Development Plan guidelines. Attention was drawn to the elements considered to be essential for unique and sustainable communities, and the Development Plan's strategic objective involved well-being and the Welsh language and culture - it was added that including Policy PS1 set a local policy framework when considering these aspects.

Submitted - the draft timetable that had been set to prepare the SPG, outlining the importance of having the opportunity to scrutinise beforehand, in accordance with the Committee's wishes (it was noted that the timetable had been adapted to address this).

In response to an observation regarding the use of NCT20, it was noted that there was more detail in the Local Development Plan and the guidance, once they had been developed, would have a much stronger basis than what was in NCT20, which was limited on some requirements. If an Inspector sided with the NCT20 viewpoint, the Senior Planning Manager noted that he would be confident to support the stance on the guidance and not on NCT20, because the decision would be based on recent evidence. It was suggested that there was a need to ensure that applicants were aware of this.

The information was accepted.

b) The Head of Democratic Services submitted a draft brief of the Planning and the Welsh Language Scrutiny Investigation in response to the Committee's desire to scrutinise that the consultation process on the SPG - Planning and the Welsh Language, had been inclusive. He added that the Scrutiny Forum had agreed to

prioritise to the investigation and that a resource had been identified to support the investigation. It was added that initial discussions had been held on the brief with the relevant officers.

It was highlighted that the investigation would report back to the Communities Scrutiny Committee and to the Joint Planning Policy Committee. It was reported that an application had been submitted for Anglesey Council to jointly scrutinise with Gwynedd, but no response had been received. It was noted that up to five members were needed to participate in the investigation, including one member of the Language Committee.

A request was made for the Joint Planning Committee's roles, and whether they had a statutory role of scrutinisation by the Panel.

- c) Resolved to accept the brief.
- ch) Councillors Seimon Glyn, Gruffydd Williams and Owain Williams were nominated in addition to Aled Evans (Language Committee).

## **7. PLANNING SCRUTINY INVESTIGATION - UPDATE**

A progress report was received by the Cabinet Member following a scrutiny investigation into the field of planning. The main findings of the investigation were highlighted and an update was given on the recommendations submitted in March 2017.

In response to an observation regarding the recommendation to modify the thresholds of the Gwynedd Delegation Plan, it was reported that the work had now received the support of the Committee Members, with the intention of proceeding to formalise the modifications through the appropriate procedure. It was added that there was an intention for the delegation plan to be submitted to the Full Council in March 2018.

The meeting commenced at 10.30am and concluded at 12pm

# Agenda Item 5

<b>COMMITTEE</b>	Communities Scrutiny Committee
<b>DATE</b>	22 February 2018
<b>TITLE</b>	<b>SCRUTINISING THE DRAFT WELL-BEING PLAN</b>
<b>CABINET MEMBER</b>	Councillor Dyfrig Siencyn
<b>PURPOSE</b>	To provide an opportunity for members of the Committee to scrutinise the content of the Gwynedd and Anglesey Draft Well-being Plan and submit any observations

## **1. BACKGROUND**

- 1.1 The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 places a duty on Public Services Boards to publish a Well-being Plan which outlines how it is intended to improve the well-being of the area's residents.
- 1.2 As you will know, the Gwynedd and Anglesey Public Services Board includes representation at the highest level from the main public bodies in the area. Among the statutory membership are Gwynedd and Anglesey Councils, Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board, North Wales Fire and Rescue Authority and Natural Resources Wales.
- 1.3 The first stage of the work of creating the Well-being Plan was to undertake an assessment of local well-being and carry out research in order to understand and learn more about those areas. In addition, several public consultation sessions were held in these areas in order to gather more information and give residents an opportunity to have their say.
- 1.4 In May 2017, Assessments of Local Well-being for the Gwynedd and Anglesey areas were published with both counties split into 14 smaller areas (eight in Gwynedd and six in Anglesey).
- 1.5 Having considered the data and the views of local people, nine main messages were highlighted in the assessments for the entire area. A further series of workshops was held in August 2017 based on the main messages identified in order to discuss how it would be possible to respond to the matters highlighted.
- 1.6 The Board considered the aforementioned information when creating the Draft Well-being Plan for Gwynedd and Anglesey. A copy of this document can be found in **Appendix 1**.
- 1.7 There is a statutory duty on the relevant Scrutiny Committee within the Council to scrutinise the content of the document as part of the process of developing the Plan. However, it is important to note that we as a Council are only one of the partners and the content of the final plan will be the decision of the Public Services Board.

## **2. DRAFT WELL-BEING PLAN**

- 2.1 The plan outlines how the Board intends to make a real difference to the lives of residents by working together in order to deliver for the entire area.
- 2.2 The **Well-being Objectives** have been drawn up following an analysis of the main messages which were highlighted in the Well-being Assessment and consideration of

other research and assessments e.g. Regional Population Assessment in the health and care field.

2.3 There are two well-being objectives with six priorities which we will target in order to realise the objectives. It is noted that these priorities are based on the messages which were highlighted as part of the Well-being Assessment.

**1. Communities that thrive and flourish in the long-term**

- The Welsh language
- Homes for local people
- The effect of poverty on the well-being of our communities
- The effect of climate change on the well-being of communities

**2. Residents that are healthy and independent with a good standard of living**

- Health and care of adults
- Welfare and success of children and young people

2.4 The Board believes that these are fields in which we could collaborate better, in a period of significant cutbacks in public sector resources, in order to secure the best results for the residents of Gwynedd and Anglesey.

2.5 As part of the consultation, the Public Services Board invites you to scrutinise the content of the draft Well-being Plan and give specific consideration to the following questions:

- Do you believe that the well-being objectives and the priorities identified to realise the objectives will improve the social, environmental, cultural and economic well-being of both counties?
- Are there any priorities missing?
- Which priorities should be focused on first?
- Where could the Board collaborate and influence in order to make a difference?
- In what way could the communities assist to deliver the plan's priorities and to develop them further in the future?
- Any other comments.

**3. NEXT STEPS**

3.1 The three-month statutory consultation period will end at the end of March. Following this, the Board will consider the responses to the consultation before creating a final Well-being Plan.

3.2 Once the Board will have approved the final version, the Well-being Plan will be submitted to the Boards/Full Councils of the statutory members for approval prior to publication in May 2018.

3.3 In the case of Gwynedd Council, it will be submitted to the Full Council on 3 May.

**Appendix 1** - Gwynedd and Anglesey Well-being Plan (Draft).

# GWYNEDD & ANGLESEY WELL-BEING PLAN



# WELL-BEING PLAN

The Gwynedd and Anglesey Public Services Board is committed to achieving positive changes to ensure the best possible future for communities across both counties through this Well-being Plan. The aim is to make a real difference to the lives of residents and ensure that public service providers work together to achieve a common ambition for the whole region.

We have strong and proud communities, with a tradition of helping each other and working together. The role of these communities will be central to delivering the well-being objectives which have been set out in this plan.

Engaging with communities is core to the success of the plan, and the Board commits to providing clear guidance in order reach its objectives. As members, we will take collective responsibility for realising the plan and we will work with partners to improve the well-being of residents and our communities.

However, it is important to emphasise that this Plan should not be considered in isolation and it does not look to encompass all the services and activities of the public bodies working in Gwynedd and Anglesey. The individual organisations will continue to provide services which will deliver their own objectives as well as contribute to the well-being objectives of the Public Services Board.

## **Ffion Johnstone**

*Chair of the Gwynedd and Anglesey Public Services Board*



# WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS [WALES] ACT 2015

The aim of the Well-being of Future Generations Act (2015) is to improve the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales.

The Act highlights seven well-being goals (see image below) and five ways of working in order to give public bodies a common purpose. It also tries to ensure that we are better at making decisions by placing a duty on organisations to think about the long-term, to collaborate and to consider people of all ages when resolving and preventing problems.

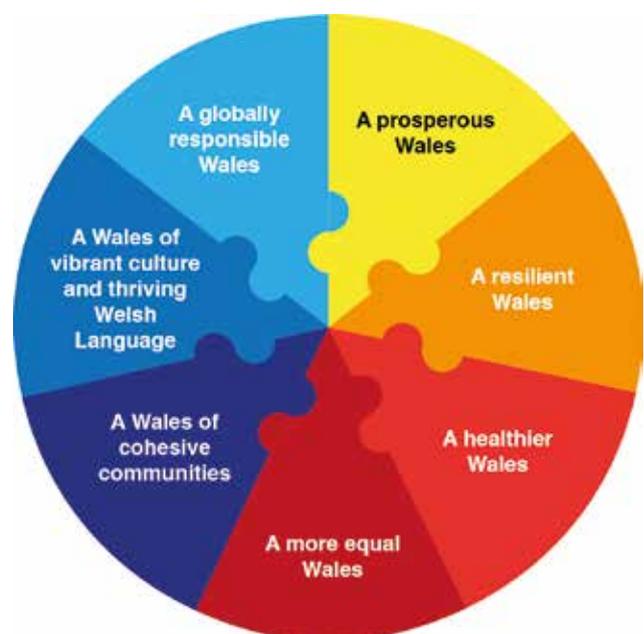
Together, the seven well-being goals and the five ways of working have been designed to support public bodies to meet the existing needs of their communities and ensure that the decisions of today do not harm future generations.

The Act has established a Public Services Board for every local authority area in Wales to ensure that public bodies work together to create a better future for the people of Wales. As part of this, the Public Services Boards must assess the well-being of their areas and create a Well-being Plan with the aim of improving communities.

The Boards must consider a host of other legislation which have also been created to improve public services, they include:

- Climate Change Act 2008
- Schools Standards and Framework Act 1998
- Childcare Act 2006
- Children and Families (Wales) Measure 2010
- Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014
- Crime and Disorder Act 1998
- Environment (Wales) Act 2016
- Planning (Wales) Act 2015

With all of this, the plan is being developed in a complex national and international context – with economic and political uncertainty placing added pressure on services, and having an impact on communities locally and across Wales.



# PUBLIC SERVICES BOARD MEMBERSHIP

The Gwynedd and Anglesey Public Services Boards have decided to work together as one Board to deliver their objectives.

The statutory members of the Board are:

- Gwynedd Council and the Isle of Anglesey County Council
- Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board
- North Wales Fire and Rescue Authority
- Natural Resources Wales

As well as the statutory members, the Board is duty-bound to invite other individuals and bodies to participate. The Gwynedd and Anglesey Public Services Board has invited the following organisations as guest members:

- Welsh Government
- North Wales Police
- Public Health Wales
- North Wales Police and Crime Commissioner
- Snowdonia National Park Authority
- Mantell Gwynedd
- Medrwn Môn
- Wales Probation Service
- Bangor University
- Cartrefi Cymunedol Gwynedd
- Grŵp Llandrillo Menai

There will be an opportunity to ask other bodies/ organisations/ partners to sit on the Gwynedd and Anglesey Public Services Board in the future as specific objectives and actions are identified.

# ASSESSMENT OF LOCAL WELL-BEING

In May 2017, an Assessment of Local Well-being was published for Gwynedd and Anglesey. The Public Services Board decided to divide the two counties into 14 smaller areas and research was undertaken in order to understand and learn more about the well-being of those areas. Eight of these areas were in Gwynedd and six in Anglesey.

Once the data had been gathered and the research had been completed individual booklets were produced for each of the 14 areas. The booklets looked at well-being in the context of the four main headings of the Act – namely Social, Economic, Environmental and Cultural. 'Population and Language' has been included as an additional heading locally as the Board recognises the importance of this specific theme to the area.

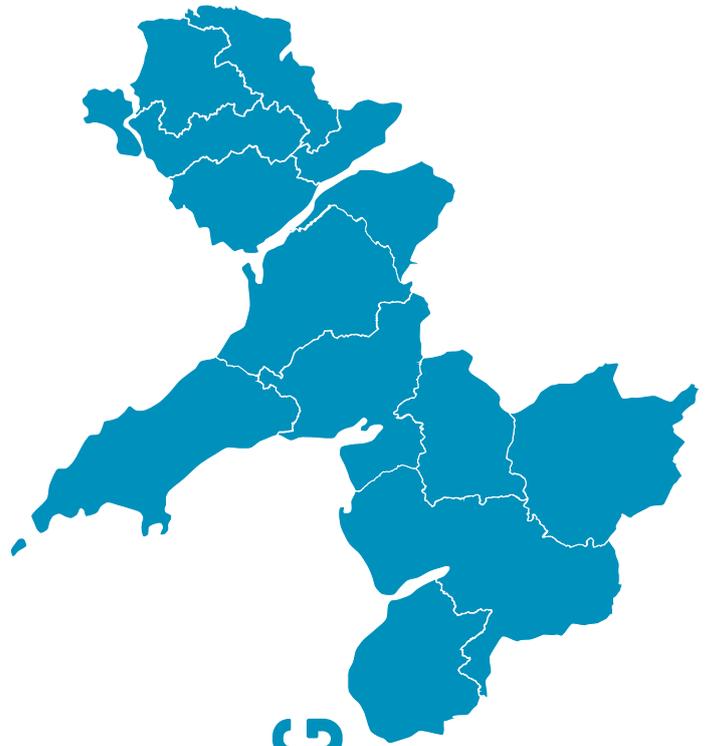
Twenty-eight public sessions were held, two in each of the areas, to gather more information and to give residents an opportunity to voice their opinion. We asked if they recognised their area from the booklets, what was important to them, and what they liked about their community as well as what they would like to see changing. Residents were also asked what was important in terms of the well-being of the individual and the well-being of the community.

It was important that we heard various opinions from across the area, so sessions were held at schools and with community groups. In addition, regional discussions were held with representatives of harder-to-reach groups.

There was a social media campaign and articles appeared in local press and on partners' websites to promote the assessment, and to encourage residents to complete an on-line questionnaire about their areas.

The information booklets for each area are still available on the website.

[www.LlesiantGwyneddaMon.org](http://www.LlesiantGwyneddaMon.org).



[WWW.LLESIAANTGWYNEDDAMON.ORG](http://WWW.LLESIAANTGWYNEDDAMON.ORG)

# WHAT IS WELL-BEING?

There isn't one specific definition of 'well-being'. There are frequent discussions about the meaning, but it can mean something different to everyone. Well-being can describe those things which affect how good an individual's life is. Our personal well-being can include feelings of happiness, quality of life and the concept of living life to the full. Our communities, culture, health, environment and economy all affect well-being and quality of life. What's important to personal well-being is also likely to change as people go through the various stages of life. It also follows that people's personal well-being has an impact on the well-being of their families, and the communities that they are a part of.



# WHAT IS WELL-BEING FOR THE PEOPLE OF GWYNEDD AND ANGLESEY?

The following is a flavour of what the people across both counties said:

## **What's good about living in your area?**

The fact that it has a high percentage of Welsh-speakers, and a strong sense of community is important to people. Several noted that being able to live in a safe area is also very important, as well as the natural environment and the views which surround them.

## **What's not so good?**

A lack of good quality jobs is a concern for the residents of Gwynedd and Anglesey. It was also noted that the distance from services and facilities and a lack of suitable public transport is also a problem. Other factors which caused concern were high house and property prices and the appearance of streets in some towns.

## **What promotes your well-being and contributes to the quality of life in your area?**

The opportunity to undertake outdoor activities, the natural environment, local facilities and a community spirit are all factors which have a positive impact on the well-being of the area's population. All of this, together with the support of family, friends and neighbours contribute to promoting well-being and improves the quality of life of the people of Gwynedd and Anglesey.

## **What would you change about your area to make it a better place to live?**

The factors that residents would change about their area are public transport, more jobs with higher salaries, developing local activities and facilities, and improving the appearance of streets.

# WHAT DID THE ASSESSMENT TELL US ABOUT THE WELL-BEING OF OUR AREAS?

The assessment was a starting point – an overview of well-being to accompany the area booklets which gave the Public Services Board a better understanding of Gwynedd and Anglesey.

Having considered the data and the views of local people, the Board concluded that the key messages of the assessment were as follows:

1. THE NEED TO MAINTAIN A HEALTHY COMMUNITY SPIRIT
2. THE IMPORTANCE OF PROTECTING THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT
3. UNDERSTANDING THE EFFECT OF DEMOGRAPHIC CHANGES
4. PROTECTING AND PROMOTING THE WELSH LANGUAGE
5. PROMOTING THE USE OF NATURAL RESOURCES TO IMPROVE HEALTH AND WELL-BEING IN THE LONG-TERM
6. IMPROVING TRANSPORT LINKS TO ENABLE ACCESS TO SERVICES AND FACILITIES
7. THE NEED FOR GOOD QUALITY JOBS AND AFFORDABLE HOMES FOR LOCAL PEOPLE
8. THE EFFECT OF POVERTY ON WELL-BEING
9. ENSURING AN OPPORTUNITY FOR EVERY CHILD TO SUCCEED

These are the main messages, but the Board acknowledges that other important factors have not been highlighted. It is possible that one of the reasons for this is that the action already taken is effective and has a positive impact on residents' lives.

**The Board will review the data in the Assessment regularly and will respond to any significant changes which have not already been identified as priorities within this plan.**

**Similarly, the Board will work to get a more detailed understanding of future developments and challenges which could influence well-being in the area. These include Wylfa Newydd, leaving the European Union and the effects of climate change, such as flooding.**

# DEVELOPING THE PLAN

## HOW WERE THE WELL-BEING OBJECTIVES AGREED UPON?

With nine main messages highlighted in the Well-being Assessment, a series of workshops were held throughout the summer of 2017 in order to listen to views about which areas to prioritise. The workshops were open to public bodies, the third sector, town and community councils and community groups.

Eighteen workshops were held in total, two for each of the messages.

The workshop looked at each one from the perspective of:

- a) ambition
- b) the Board's influence
- c) confirming whether the message should be a well-being goal
- d) how Board members should work together to make a difference to residents

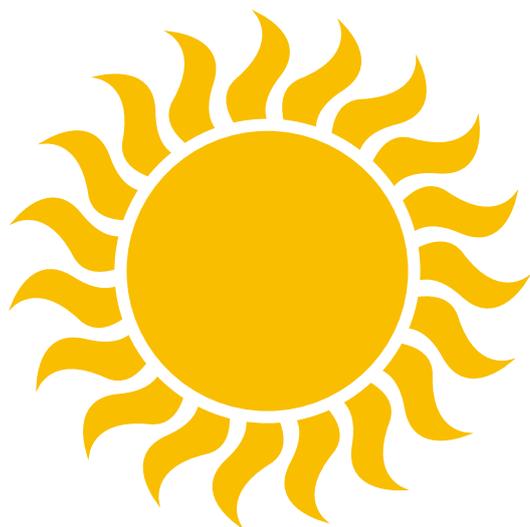
A summary of the responses was submitted to the Public Services Board and it was decided which areas should be prioritised for this Well-being Plan.

# 1. THE NEED TO MAINTAIN A HEALTHY COMMUNITY SPIRIT

It is clear that there is a healthy community spirit in Gwynedd and on Anglesey – with each of the 14 areas saying that this was central to their well-being. It is important that this spirit is nurtured and promoted to create prosperous and sustainable communities and areas which are confident to face the challenges of the future.

The Board sees healthy communities as a basis to achieving its goals over the coming years, therefore members will work together to reinforce the strengths within our communities.

The work of delivering the priorities and maintaining healthy communities will happen hand in hand with those communities.



# 2. THE IMPORTANCE OF PROTECTING THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT



The natural environment of Gwynedd and Anglesey is very important to the well-being, culture, health and economy of the area. We have special habitats across both counties which are important natural assets and are a home to a variety of wildlife, which contribute to the well-being of the area and the wider population. Wide areas of Gwynedd and Anglesey have also been designated due to the importance of the landscape or conservation which reflect the value of this natural environment.

Our climate is changing and it will continue to do so – causing the sea level to rise and more extreme weather events such as flooding. This will affect the well-being of communities and the services which are provided, **therefore, this will be a priority area for the Board.**

The Board considers that protecting the natural environment is a key part of delivering its priorities and it will be a common theme that runs across all the well-being objectives.

### 3. UNDERSTANDING THE EFFECT OF DEMOGRAPHIC CHANGES

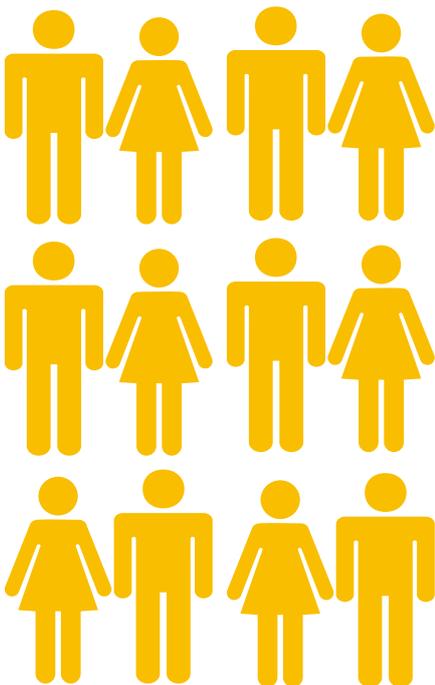
The population of Gwynedd and Anglesey is ageing, with the number of young people in our communities declining. The demography of the area will change significantly and the nature and needs of our society will be very different as a result.

The Board is keen to improve its understanding of how this change will affect the well-being of communities and individuals. It is possible many older people will continue to work and contribute in full within their communities. However, we also acknowledge that older people are more likely to need more care and support and we'll need to plan for this. We understand that an older population does not necessarily mean an unhealthy population, but we must acknowledge that there will be an increased demand for services due to the ageing population.

### 4. PROTECTING AND PROMOTING THE WELSH LANGUAGE

Data about the Welsh language clearly shows the decline that has occurred over the last 30 years in the number of Welsh-speakers. The reduction of 11% is higher in Gwynedd than the rest of Wales. Gwynedd and Anglesey are the two counties in which the Welsh language is strongest and is used daily by a vast majority of the population. However, if the decline continues, parts of the county could be at risk of losing the language for future generations.

The Board understands the importance of the Welsh language in terms of the social make-up and cultural identity of the area. We must ensure that residents can and choose to live their lives through the medium of Welsh and that they can access community services and activities in Welsh. **This is therefore a priority for future joint working.**



## 5. PROMOTING THE USE OF NATURAL RESOURCES TO IMPROVE HEALTH AND WELL-BEING IN THE LONG-TERM



Our information shows that the health of the population of Gwynedd and Anglesey is not as good as it could be. For example, **52%** of adults and **30%** of children aged 4-5 in Gwynedd are obese or overweight. The picture on Anglesey is similar with **58%** of adults and **29.6%** of children aged between 4 and 5 overweight or obese. Children and adults should be enabled to be more active, particularly in the outdoors, we should do this by promoting and improving access to natural green spaces.

People need to be encouraged to take responsibility for their own health and to take part in activities which will prevent illness in the future.

Due to the need to improve the population's physical and mental health and the long-term effect this will have on well-being, **health and care will be a priority for the Board.**

## 6. IMPROVING TRANSPORT LINKS TO ENABLE ACCESS TO SERVICES AND FACILITIES



The lack of access to services was one of the issues raised most frequently during the Well-being Assessment consultation. It's clear that this is a matter of concern and has a significant effect on the well-being of individuals. So, services need to be planned locally and target the well-being areas.

A specific plan for the region has been developed by the North Wales Ambition Board which includes a Local Transport Plan. The Public Services Board believes that the best way of securing improvement is by supporting the work of the Ambition Board. The Board will put a formal structure in place in order to collaborate and influence the work of the Ambition Board.



## 7. THE NEED FOR GOOD QUALITY JOBS AND AFFORDABLE HOMES FOR LOCAL PEOPLE

### GOOD QUALITY JOBS

The need for good quality jobs was one of the main messages of the consultation. Our information shows that the median weekly salary in Gwynedd (**£347 per week**) is lower than the same figure for Wales as a whole and the money that people in Gwynedd have to spend after taxes and the costs of running a home is **£662** which is lower than the Wales figure. The picture is slightly better on Anglesey with the median weekly wage **8%** higher than the same figure for Wales.

During the consultation, many residents said that this was one of the reasons why young people leave their communities and identify this as an important issue in terms of the general well-being of the area.

The Board fully understands the need for good quality sustainable jobs. We also recognise the work that's happening on this across the region under the leadership of the North Wales Ambition Board. The Ambition Board is in the process of creating a growth bid which will address this matter. Therefore, as with transport, the Public Services Board will collaborate and support the work of the Ambition Board in order to ensure the full benefits for Gwynedd and Anglesey.

### AFFORDABLE HOMES FOR LOCAL PEOPLE

Given the median property price and median household income, **60%** of Gwynedd families are priced out of the housing market. This percentage varies from area to area with the highest percentage in Llŷn where **73%** of families have been priced out of the market. On Anglesey **64%** of families are priced out of the housing market with this as high as **72%** in the Lligwy and Twrcelyn area.

Residents believe that this is another reason for the outward migration of young people and this has a negative effect on the well-being of those communities. People are keen to see more affordable houses to support and maintain strong and healthy communities.

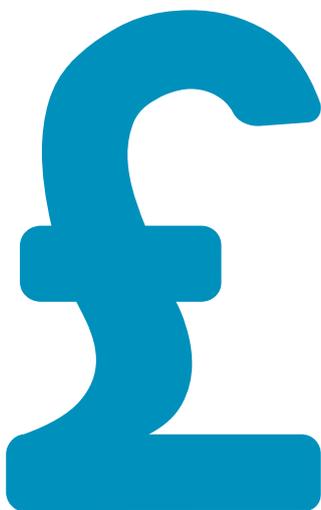
**The Board will prioritise this over the next period** and it will work to find an achievable solution for the problem.

## 8. THE EFFECT OF POVERTY ON WELL-BEING

Evidence shows clearly that living in poverty has a detrimental effect on individuals' well-being – in the short-term and long-term. Poverty is caused by a lack of resources, the most obvious of which is income, but it also includes the lack of ability to obtain goods and access basic services.

The data gathered highlights issues such as the difference in the educational attainment of pupils who receive free school meals and those who pay. On Anglesey the gap is **25%**, and in Gwynedd it is **36%** - this compares to **33%** across the whole of Wales. In addition to this, **18%** of Anglesey households and **21%** of Gwynedd households are in fuel poverty, both higher than the Welsh figure of **14%**.

**The Board will prioritise this area of work** in order to get a detailed understanding of the implications of living in poverty. We will continue to develop the Well-being Assessment to get a better picture of the area and where the lack of access to services is more challenging due to poverty.



## 9. ENSURING AN OPPORTUNITY FOR EVERY CHILD TO SUCCEED

A lack of educational attainment can have an impact on the well-being of individuals throughout their lives, so we need to ensure that every pupil has an opportunity to succeed.

Health data also shows that obesity is a problem, and this can have a long-term effect on the well-being of children and young people.

There is clear evidence about the long-term detrimental effect of negative experiences in childhood and how this can affect the well-being of people throughout their lives. The need to ensure that our children and young people have positive experiences during their childhood is therefore important.

**The Board will give priority** to supporting families to try to ensure that every child has the best start in life. We will also work with key partners to deliver the best possible results for children and young people.



# OUR WELL-BEING OBJECTIVES

Having looked at the main messages of the Well-being Assessment and considered findings of other research and assessments e.g. Regional Population Assessment, two well-being objectives have been agreed. The Public Services Board will give priority to specific areas to achieve those objectives.

In a period of reduced public sector resources, we believe that we can improve joint-working in these areas to ensure the best possible results for the people of Gwynedd and Ynys Môn.

## 1 COMMUNITIES WHICH THRIVE AND ARE PROSPEROUS IN THE LONG-TERM

TO REALISE THIS OBJECTIVE, WE WILL PRIORITISE:

### ✓ The Welsh language

We will work together to increase the use of the Welsh language within public bodies in Gwynedd and Anglesey.

We will promote the use of Welsh as the preferred language of communication between public bodies across both counties.

### ✓ Homes for local people

We will work with the housing sector to ensure more suitable and affordable homes in the right places to meet local needs.

We will work together to ensure that homes are of high quality and meet the needs of residents.

### ✓ The effect of poverty on the well-being of our communities

We will develop a detailed understanding of how poverty affects the area and look to ensure that the work happening across public bodies is more effective in mitigating the long-term effects of poverty.

### ✓ The effect of climate change on the well-being of communities

We will work together locally to mitigate the effects of climate change on our communities.

## 2 RESIDENTS WHO ARE HEALTHY AND INDEPENDENT WITH A GOOD QUALITY OF LIFE

TO REALISE THIS OBJECTIVE, WE WILL PRIORITISE:

### ✓ Health and care of adults

We will work with the Regional Partnership Board to ensure that the services planned for the older population meet local needs.

We will collaborate locally to plan a wide range of preventative activities for adults to enable them to live healthy and independent lives.

### ✓ The welfare and achievement of children and young people

We will plan preventative services and activities together to support families before the need for intensive intervention arises.

We will encourage children, young people and their families to improve their health so that they can live healthily and independently within their communities in the long-term.

# HOW WE'LL WORK IN THE FUTURE?

The Gwynedd and Anglesey Public Services Board will operate in line with seven principles. Five of these are national sustainable development principles and two have been added by the Board locally. These principles will help us to work together, avoid repeating past mistakes and get to grips with some of the challenges we will face in the future.

## THE WELSH LANGUAGE

The Welsh language will be a golden thread running through the plan. We will promote the use of the language in all aspects of our work and will work with communities to develop services and activities through the medium of Welsh.

## EQUALITY

We will continue to target local and national resources to tackle inequality and disadvantage in order to close the gap between the most privileged communities and the most deprived communities.

## LONG TERM

We will continue to gather data to ensure a better understanding of how communities look now and how they will look in the future as a result of factors such as demographic changes. We will also look at which national and regional changes are on the horizon and try to analyse the effect on our communities. By doing so, we can work together as partners and residents to plan services for the future.

## PREVENTION

We will use trends data to identify the problems which will face our communities in the future and will develop and implement plans to prevent them. We will work with communities to enable them to do more to prevent issues from developing and support programmes which can make a real difference in the long-term.

## COLLABORATION

We will try to remove the barriers which prevent effective collaboration. We will also share information and good practice between Board members and our residents about what is being done to realise objectives and priorities. We will consider the Board's membership regularly and will ensure that the right partners are included in order to achieve our objectives.

## INTEGRATION

We will work in a way which will contribute to more than one goal where appropriate and in accordance with Welsh Government's national well-being objectives. We will try to integrate services if evidence shows that this gets the best results for our communities. We will consider other local and regional strategies and plans which work towards the same or similar goals and work together in order to achieve them.

## INVOLVEMENT

Our residents and our communities have an important role to play when planning services for the future and we will ensure that their perspectives and experiences are central to the process of planning the work of the Board. We will adopt the National Participation Standards for all ages and ensure that the Board works within those standards. We will ensure that people can communicate with us in their preferred language and medium.

# THE NEXT STEPS

In May 2018, the Board will publish the final Local Well-being Plan for Gwynedd and Anglesey. The Board wants to include you in the consultation process and we are keen to hear your opinion about what will work in your area. By agreeing to the steps, we need to take to improve well-being across both counties, we will ensure that public service providers work together to develop an action plan which will focus on preventative activities for positive future results.

There is some way to go, and we want to hear your views on this draft plan to ensure that we set the right goals and priorities for the well-being of residents in Gwynedd and Anglesey. The consultation runs from **8<sup>th</sup> of January 2018** to **30<sup>th</sup> of March 2018**.

To take part in the consultation, please contact us via the website.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION ...

For more information and to see all the documents in relation to this assessment, go to:

**WWW.LLESIAN TGWYNEDDAMON.ORG**  
**01766 771000**

Ask for  
**Gwynedd and Anglesey Public Services Board Programme Manager**



# Agenda Item 6

<b>NAME OF SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</b>	<b>COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE</b>
<b>DATE OF MEETING</b>	<b>22 February 2018</b>
<b>TITLE</b>	<b>Sustainability Balance Dark Sky Status</b>
<b>AUTHOR</b>	<b>Dafydd Williams – Head of Environment</b>
<b>CABINET MEMBER</b>	<b>CIlr Dafydd Meurig</b>
<b>PURPOSE</b>	<b>Informing Members</b>

## 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 During the 1980s the quiet nature or tranquillity of specific areas began to be recognised; this included acknowledging the importance of dark-skies.
- 1.2 In 1988, the **International Dark-Sky Association - IDA** was founded in Tucson, Arizona, USA. It is a non-profit organisation whose principal aim is to "preserve and protect the night time environment and our heritage of dark skies through quality outdoor lighting."
- 1.3 The IDA is also responsible for designating areas throughout the world as Dark-Sky Reserves. The organisation is responsible for other designations that acknowledge and protect Dark-Skies in smaller surface areas.

## 2. DARK-SKY RESERVES

- 2.1 The International Dark-Sky Association (IDA) has a specific procedure for the Dark-Sky Reserve designation - which includes inspecting, criteria and action plans. It also requires that for areas to be eligible for Reserve status they must be fairly large. A core part of applying for the designation is the preparation and adoption of the Lightscape Management Plan. Details about the IDA can be and the designation procedure can be seen on the website - [www.darksky.org](http://www.darksky.org).
- 2.2 The IDA has stated that the mission of the Dark-Sky Reserve is to:
  - Acknowledge the effort to maintain and protect dark skies
  - Promote ecotourism
  - Promote the protection of night-time habitats and public enjoyment
  - Encourage workers to protect dark-skies
  - Provide international recognition
  - Encourage other areas to act for the benefit of dark-skies
- 2.3 By now, there are a number of Dark-Sky Reserves throughout the world - including in the USA, New Zealand, Germany, France, England, Ireland and Wales.

## 3. BRECON BEACONS DARK-SKY RESERVE

- 3.1 The Dark-Sky status came to the public's attention in Wales following the designation of the Brecon Beacons National Park as a Dark-Sky Reserve by the IDA in 2013. This was the first area in Wales to receive this status and much publicity was generated as a result. The Park

held a number of events, such as night-time tours, star-gazing etc. to coincide with the designation, and an Observatory was created.

#### **4. SNOWDONIA NATIONAL PARK**

4.1 Following the attention given to the Brecon Beacons, a number of other areas in Britain researched the possibilities of applying for Dark-Sky Reserve status, including Snowdonia National Park.

4.2 After conducting Dark-Sky inspections, taking action on some lighting measures, and adopting the Light Management Plan, Snowdonia National Park Authority also managed to gain the status in 2015. A considerable amount of staff time was required for the project and consultants had to be commissioned to undertake some of the work. A copy of the National Park's application to the IDA can be seen by following the link: [http://www.darksky.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/Snowdonia\\_IDSRS\\_application.pdf](http://www.darksky.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/Snowdonia_IDSRS_application.pdf) .

4.3 Having succeeded with the application, the National Park prepared a Supplementary Planning Guidance relating to light, and progress must be reported on annually in terms of managing and restricting lights.

4.4 In terms of the benefits from the designation, initial findings note that it:

- adds value to local businesses
- attracts some visitors with a specific interest in the night sky
- helps attract visitors outside the main season

#### **5. CLWYDIAN HILLS AND DEE VALLEY AONB**

5.1 At the beginning of February 2018, the Clwydian Hills and Dee Valley AONB Joint Advisory Committee voted to apply for a Dark-Sky Reserve Designation. This followed a two year period of research and consultation with local businesses and people. According to a BBC report, making the application and creating a Lighting Management Plan will cost around £20,000 and Welsh Government will pay half of this.

#### **6. LLŶN PENINSULA AND BARDSEY**

6.1 In 1997, the Countryside Council for Wales commissioned a report of Wales that looked at activity that disrupted the tranquillity of areas. The study also gave consideration to the dark night sky. In the Study, the far end of the Llŷn Peninsula and the Clynnog area were areas that had very little "sky-glow". A further assessment was carried out in 2009 and a substantial part of Llŷn again scored high in terms of tranquillity and dark sky (absence of lights).

6.2 In 2014, Wil Parry of Menter y Felin Uchaf investigated the possibility of applying for Dark-Sky Reserve Status for the Llŷn Peninsula. He collaborated with the Wales Dark-Sky Education Service and was given support by the AONB Service. However, the IDA determined that the surface area of Llŷn was not large enough to be able to apply for Reserve status. It was noted that there were possibilities in terms of a Dark-Sky Park or Dark-Sky Communities status for individual villages and towns. However, no further action was taken on the matter.

6.3 Bardsey Island Trust has been working for some time on an application for a Dark-Sky Sanctuary status. The background work has now been completed (including changing the lights to low impact ones). The Trust aims to submit the application to the IDA in 2018.

## **7. DARK-SKY DESIGNATION FOR LLŶN**

7.1 Welsh Government has recently taken an interest in ensuring Dark-Sky status for the rest of Wales' Designated Landscapes (Pembrokeshire Coast National Park and the five AONB). Consequently, a grant has been offered toward conducting a survey that would form the basis for applying for Dark-Sky status of some sort; it would also be useful for reviewing the Management Plan.

7.2 The AONB Service has accepted the grant offer and the survey will be conducted by the Wales Dark-Sky Education Service in 2018.

7.3 There is also an intention to resume discussions with the IDA about a Dark-Sky status that could be appropriate for an area such as Llŷn, that is insufficiently large to be given Reserve status.

<b>COMMITTEE</b>	Communities Scrutiny Committee
<b>DATE</b>	22 <sup>nd</sup> February 2018
<b>TITLE</b>	To implement the recommendation to adapt the Planning Delegation Scheme following the Scrutiny Investigation into the Planning field.
<b>AUTHOUR</b>	Dafydd Wyn Williams – Head of Environment Department
<b>CABINET MEMBER</b>	Councillor Dafydd Meurig
<b>PURPOSE</b>	To submit the new (Draft) Planning Delegation Scheme to include the adaptations approved by the Scrutiny Committee prior to its submission to the Full Council.

## 1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 It is intended to request that the Full Council supports the recommendation of the Scrutiny Committee to amend the Planning Delegation Scheme. A Scrutiny Investigation into the planning field was carried out during 2016-17. One of the fields which was investigated was the Planning Delegation Scheme, which is the Scheme that notes which applications are delegated to relevant officers to determine and which applications need to be reported to the Planning Committee for a decision.
- 1.2 In March 2017, and as a result of the work and outcomes of the Scrutiny Investigation, a recommendation was made by the Scrutiny Committee to the Cabinet Member that the thresholds in the Delegation Scheme should be revised. Amending the Planning Delegation Scheme will require the approval of the Full Council on the recommendation of the Monitoring Officer as it is a constitutional matter. As part of this process, the support of the Scrutiny Committee is sought to amend the Planning Delegation Scheme in accordance with its original recommendations in order to secure the benefits already discussed and which are outlined below. It is felt that it is important that the Scrutiny Committee sees the output of the investigation's work, before it is reported to the Full Council, with the amendments already approved by the Committee, incorporated in an amended Delegation Scheme.

## 2. WORK OF THE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

- 2.1 One of the work fields that the Scrutiny Committee wished to examine was the part of the Delegation Scheme that is relevant to planning applications. This probably arises from concerns raised regularly by members, the Chair and former Chair of the Planning Committee about the length of agendas, the duration of the Committees, the number and type of items which are submitted before the Planning Committee and why some items need to be submitted to Committee at all. General concern has been expressed that the existing procedure does not make the best use of the Committee's time and ensure that it deals with and focuses on applications which are of real interest to them without having to deal with matters which have little more than local interest.
- 2.2 Specifically in relation to this topic, the scrutiny investigation considered:
1. What are the priorities of the Planning Committee in terms of applications that are submitted before the Committee and the time and expertise that is available?
  2. Do existing arrangements enable the Planning Committee to deal with and focus on applications that are of real interest to the Committee without having to deal with matters which have little more than local interest?

3. If the content/thresholds of the Delegation Scheme need to be changed, how can this be carried out?
  4. What would be the benefits to the Planning Committee ... and would there be a broader benefit than a benefit to the work of the Planning Committee itself?
- 2.3 In order to do this, information was provided for the consideration of the Scrutiny Investigation which covered:

### **3. THE PLANNING COMMITTEE'S EXISTING ARRANGEMENTS**

- 3.1 The Planning Committee meets every three weeks and on average approximately 10 applications appear on every agenda and recently there were 16 applications on the agenda which meant that the Committee had to start in the morning rather than at 1pm. Given the work involved with preparing items for the Committee, as well as pressure on Members and a significant number of officers to prepare in advance (and the duration of the meetings), it is clear that having more than ten applications on every agenda is not ideal, especially if there are major and/or contentious applications. This mindset has been supported by the Chair and the former Chair of the Committee and the Deputy Monitoring Officer and in general, it is believed that the ideal number of items on the agenda is eight.
- 3.2 Due to the requirements of the current Delegation Scheme, every draft agenda starts with a high number of applications (between 20 and 25) with the need to prioritise which applications will be included on the final agenda. One must prioritise based on a number of matters and risks such as: the ability to determine within the statutory period in order to meet national targets; determination within the statutory period as the applicant could request a refund of their fee if this is not achieved; a risk of appeal for not determining within the timescale; economic/grant implications (though not a planning matter, it is important for the developer and to achieve the development); work pressures for all officers involved with the process and Committee Members. From time to time, an additional Committee meeting has been required in order to catch up as occurred in December 2017 when an all-day Committee was held.
- 3.3 In addition, work involved with preparing Committee reports has increased substantially in recent years due to the need for more detailed reports in order to reduce risks for the Council, to meet local and national policy requirements and to ensure that Committee Members receive all relevant information as they make their decision. It is acknowledged that a report in relation to delegated matters is needed also, but, clearly, the timescale restrictions do not exist which means that a timely decision is much more likely.

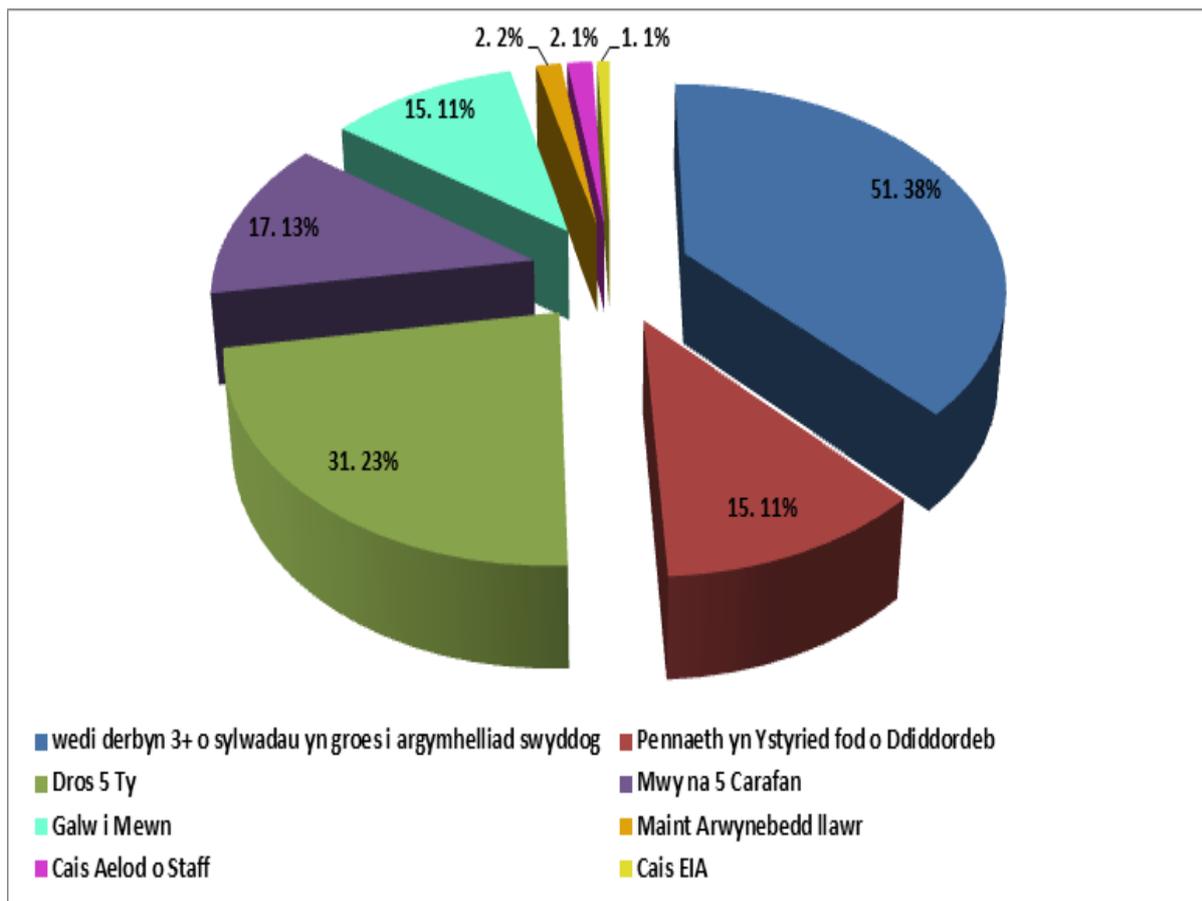
### **4. THE CURRENT DELEGATION SCHEME**

- 4.1 Currently, and in relation to planning matters only, the right to determine any matter requiring a decision under the relevant acts (which is noted in the "Delegation Scheme for Committees") is delegated to the Head of Regulatory Department (now called the Head of Environment Department), with the exception of the following, which will be the responsibility of the Planning Committee (a full copy of the current Planning Delegation Scheme is attached as **Appendix 1**):

- *Applications where the Councillor in whose ward a proposed development is located, or any other two members, submit(s) a written request to Planning Managers within the established timescale so that the matter is referred for a decision to the Planning Committee. The written request should include clear planning reasons why a request is made for the application to be referred to Committee. A notification letter should be sent to all local members. The prescribed period for advertising shall be 16 calendar days from the date of the notification letter. A local member may discuss an application with officers before referring it to Committee.*
- *Applications submitted by Members and current staff of the Planning Service.*
- *Applications which contain an Environmental Impact Assessment.*
- *An application for consent to erect power lines with a capacity of 32KV or more.*
- *Applications where three or more observations, which are contrary to the officers' recommendation, have been received within the consultation period.*
- *Applications which the Head of Regulatory Department considers should be referred to Committee.*
- *Applications for residential developments for five dwellings or more.*
- *Applications for a commercial, industrial or retail development that is larger than 500 square metres.*
- *Applications for more than five caravans.*
- *Full planning applications for telecommunication masts and equipment.*

**NOTE:** *As a matter of good practice, the Head of Service will refer any application by a close relative of a current member of staff from the Planning Service to Committee for determination. To this end, a close relative is defined as a mother or father, husband or wife, partner, child or brother or sister.*

- 4.2 It should be noted that there is a responsibility on all chief officers to consider, prior to determining, if any delegated application should be referred to the Committee for determination, under the general rights of the Officers Delegation Scheme within the Constitution (Part 13, Appendix 3). This responsibility will remain following any specific change to the Planning delegation scheme.
- 4.3 A chart was provided to the Scrutiny Committee which showed the reasons for submitting applications to the Planning Committee and it was noted that the main reason was receiving 3+ observations contrary to the officers' recommendation. All these objections could come from the same postal address or e-mail and/or be anonymous and possibly irrelevant to the case or to planning. This also means that small developments such as extensions to houses etc. have to be determined by the Committee.
- 4.4 During the 2015/16 year, the main reasons for submitting applications to the Committee were as follows:



**Note:** it must be borne in mind that these (or current) thresholds do not apply individually - it is possible that an application before the Committee is on the agenda due to e.g. number of houses, objections and that it was referred by the Local Member.

## 5. THE NATIONAL POSITION AND THE ARRANGEMENTS OF A SAMPLE OF OTHER LOCAL PLANNING AUTHORITIES IN NORTH WALES

5.1 During 2016/17 and 2015/16 9% of all Gwynedd Local Planning Authority planning applications came before the Planning Committee compared with the Welsh average of 6%. This is equivalent to 100 applications a year being submitted to the Committee at 15 different meetings (with a number of applications deferred and re-submitted).

5.2 We looked at the delegation arrangements of other Local Planning Authorities in the North and it was seen that there are common criteria between each LPA but they aren't entirely consistent, such as:

1. Circumstances where a Local Member may refer an application to the Committee
2. Circumstances where a member of staff or Councillor has a personal interest in the application
3. Applications which include an Environmental Impact Assessment
4. Applications that should be referred to the Planning Committee for determination according to the Head of Department
5. The application falls within the statutory definition of 'major'
6. A specific number (which varies from LPA to LPA) of written objections received
7. The application has been submitted by the Council or is on Council land.

- 5.3 Most LPAs which we looked at do not note the size/type of development or the number of units as a threshold as Gwynedd LPA does, but rather use the statutory definition of 'major' applications. Gwynedd Council thresholds are lower than this and are very prescriptive in terms of the number of observations, the number of houses and caravans and it is likely that their content is out of date and generally reflects the circumstances/interest that existed at the time of drawing it up. By now, the nature of the applications that are submitted to the LPA has changed considerably in terms of type, size and number.
- 5.4 Given this, it was highlighted that it was possible to propose simple changes to the delegation thresholds that would either reduce the number of applications on every agenda and all the associated work and/or ensure that applications that require priority and the Committee's attention are not unnecessarily delayed, reducing risks and ensuring performance levels. It would also be a way of trying to reduce the number submitted to Committee in order to reflect the National average and facilitate speedier decisions.

## **6. SCRUTINY COMMITTEE DISCUSSION**

- 6.1 Based on the high percentage of applications that are submitted to the Planning Committee and the associated impact of doing this (as noted above), the need to ensure that the Planning Committee focuses on dealing with matters which are of genuine interest to them alone was supported and this would also ensure the best use of the time and expertise available whilst also avoiding the potential risks outlined above.
- 6.2 In order to do so, the intention to change the Planning Delegation Scheme and basing it on the thresholds/definition of 'major' applications with local adaptations in relation to the number of houses (five rather than 10) and also development on a site of a specific size (0.5 hectare rather than 1 hectare) was supported. In relation to minerals and waste applications, it is not considered that these need to be noted individually as the other thresholds suggested will mean that the major applications or which are of interest will come before the Committee in any case.
- 6.3 The Scrutiny Committee was supportive of not having a threshold for the number of items of correspondence contrary to the officers' recommendation required in order to submit an application to Committee, as this is shown to contribute substantially towards applications submitted to Committee, which had little more than local interest. It was acknowledged and supported that the right of the Local Member or two other members to refer an application to Committee under particular circumstances continued as the current situation and this was considered acceptable. In addition, it was accepted that all items of correspondence received on an application and which are relevant to planning will continue to have deserving and appropriate attention as part of the delegated assessment.

## **7. FINDINGS OF THE SCRUTINY INVESTIGATION**

- 7.1 Based on the evidence and the information submitted to the Scrutiny Committee, it was found that *'Gwynedd Planning Delegation Scheme thresholds seem low in comparison to other organisations and this is highlighted in the number of applications referred to the Planning Committee.'* This is evidenced by the comparative Welsh performance for 2015-16 (which is also true for 2016-17). On this basis, the Scrutiny Committee recommended that the thresholds of the Planning Delegation Scheme should be as discussed and supported by the Scrutiny Committee. A draft of the entire proposed Delegation Scheme has been included as

Appendix 2 and this refers to the rights to call-in, referral of application by staff and members, good practice etc.

7.2 It is anticipated that there would be clear and wide-ranging benefits of implementing the changes:

- Fewer applications on the agenda and not have to prioritise as much
- More timely decisions likely to:
  - Improve customer experience
  - Reduce the risks to the Council (appeal and refunding fees)
- Less work pressure on Planning Committee Members and shorter meetings
- Planning Committee can deal with and focus on applications that are of real interest to them
- Less pressure on the Translation Unit, Support Unit, Planning Officers and all the other officers who support the process
- Enable the Planning Service to maintain and improve performance
- Free up Planning Officers' time to focus on other planning applications (namely 91% of all applications) in order to improve the experience of all Planning Service customers

## **8. RELEVANT TIMETABLE**

8.1 Submit the changes to the Full Council for its support on the recommendation of the Monitoring Officer at the annual meeting on 3 May 2018.

8.2 Implement the change soon afterwards and before September 2018 and take advantage of the summer period to raise awareness and put the appropriate arrangements in place.

## **9. CONCLUSIONS**

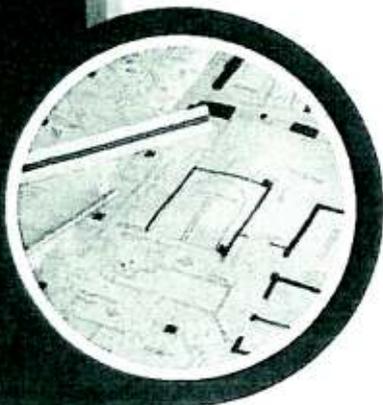
9.1 The Scrutiny Committee is asked to confirm and support the Full Draft of the proposed Planning Delegation Scheme in Appendix 2, which includes the adaptations which have already been approved, before the scheme is reported to the Full Council on the recommendation of the Monitoring Officer.

## **10. APPENDICES**

Appendix 1 – current Planning Delegation Scheme

Appendix 2 - Full Draft of the proposed Planning Delegation Scheme

# THE DELEGATED PROCEDURE



## Head of Regulatory Department

*In the "Scheme of Delegation to Committees" in Part 3 of the Constitution, it is noted where functions that are not the responsibility of the Executive have been delegated to Chief Officers. Where no chief officer has been named in that document, the power has not been delegated rather it has been reserved by the committee.*

To act on a day to day basis and within the scheme in the following fields subject to any limitations noted in this Scheme or in the Scheme of Delegation to Committees:-

- Development Control
- Conservation
- Rights of way and countryside management
- Public transport
- Street improvements
- Transport grant matters
- Highways enforcement
- Road safety
- Snowdonia Green Key
- Car parks
- Markets and fairs
- Licensing
- Trading Standards
- Environmental Health

### Planning / Development Control

- 1.1 To consider, give advice, report and implement policies and the Council and Committees' decisions on planning matters.
- 1.2 2 To establish and lead forums and groups to consider, give advice, report and implement policies and the Council and Committees' decisions on planning matters.
- 1.3 Provide all information required for local land charges.
- 1.4 Participate in working arrangements in national, regional, professional and other partnerships.
- 1.5 Give observations on consultation documents relating to planning policy where this corresponds to the Council's policy.

1.6 All functions related to town and country planning and as included in the following Acts as amended and including all secondary legislation:

- Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004
- Town and Country Planning Act 1990
- Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990
- Planning (Hazardous Substances) Act 1990
- Caravan Site and Control of Development Acts 1960 and 1968
- Environment Act 1995
- Planning and Compensation Act 1991
- Land Compensation Act 1961
- Habitats Regulations 92/43/EEC
- Anti-social Behaviour Act 2003

**The above provides that the determination on any matters requiring decisions under the above acts is delegated to the Head of Regulatory Department, with the exception of the following, which will be the responsibility of the Planning Committee.**

- Applications where the Councillor in whose ward a proposed development is located, or any other two members, submit(s) a written request to Planning Managers within the established time scale so that the matter is referred for a decision to the Planning Committee. The written request should include clear planning reasons why a request is made for the application to be referred to Committee. A notification letter should be sent to all local members. The prescribed period for advertising shall be 16 calendar days from the date of the notification letter. A local member may discuss an application with officers before referring it to Committee.
- Applications submitted by serving Members and staff of the Planning Service.
- Applications where an Environmental Impact Assessment is appended to them.
- An application for consent to erect power lines with a capacity of 132KV or more.
- Applications where three or more observations, which are contrary to the officers' recommendation, have been received within the consultation period.
- Applications which the Head of Regulatory Department considers should be referred to Committee.
- Applications for residential developments for five dwellings or more.

- Applications for a commercial industrial or retail development that is larger than 500 square metres.
- Applications for more than five caravans.
- Full planning application for telecommunication masts and equipment.

#### NOTE

As a matter of good practice the Head of Service will refer any application by a close relative of current staff of the Planning Service, to the Committee to determine. For this purpose a close relative is defined as mother or father, husband or wife, partner, son or daughter or brother or sister.

## **Gwynedd Planning Delegation Scheme**

### **Head of Environment**

*In the "Scheme of Delegation to Committees" in Appendix 1 of Part 13 of the Constitution, it is noted where functions that are not the responsibility of the Executive have been delegated to Chief Officers. Where no chief officer has been named in that document, the power has not been delegated rather it has been reserved by the committee.*

To act on a day to day basis and within the scheme in the following fields subject to any limitations noted in this Scheme or in the Scheme of Delegation to Committees:-

- Development Control (Planning)
- Planning Enforcement
- Planning Policy
- Conservation
- Biodiversity
- Rights of Way, countryside access and management
- Public transport
- Street improvements
- Transport grant matters
- Highways enforcement
- Road safety
- Snowdonia Green Key
- Car parks
- Markets and fairs
- Licensing
- Trading Standards
- Environmental Health

### **Planning / Development Control**

- 1.1 To consider, give advice, report and implement policies and the Council and Committees' decisions on planning matters
- 1.2 To establish and lead forums and groups to consider, give advice, report and implement policies and the Council and Committees' decisions on Planning matters.
- 1.3 Provide all information required for local land charges.
- 1.4 Participate in working arrangements in national, regional, professional and other partnerships.

1.5 Give observations on consultation documents relating to planning policy where this corresponds to the Council's policy.

1.6 All functions related to Town and Country Planning and as included in the following Acts as amended and including all secondary legislation

- (1) National Parks and Access to Countryside Act 1949
- (2) Historic Buildings and Ancient Monuments Act 1953
- (3) Local Authorities (Land) Act 1963
- (4) Agriculture Act 1967
- (5) Civic Amenities Act 1967
- (6) Welsh Development Authority Act 1976
- (7) Development of Rural Wales Act 1976
- (8) Inner Urban Areas Act 1978
- (9) Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979
- (10) Local Government, Planning and Land Act
- (11) New Towns Act 1981
- (12) New Towns and Urban Development Corporations Act 1985
- (13) Housing and Planning Act 1988
- (14) Housing Act
- (15) Town and Country Planning Act 1990
- (16) Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act
- (17) Planning (Consequential Provisions) Act 1990
- (18) Planning and Compensation Act 1991
- (12) Leasehold Reform, Housing and Urban Development Act 1993
- (20) The Local Government (Wales) Act 1994
- (21) Environment Act 1995
- (22) Anti-social Behaviour Act 2003
- (23) Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004
- (24) Planning-gain Supplement (Preparations) Act 2007
- (25) Planning Act 2008
- (26) Localism Act 2011

- (27) Mobile Homes (Wales) Act 2013
- (28) Criminal Justice and Courts Act 2015
- (29) The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015
- (30) Planning (Wales) Act 2015
- (31) Historic Environment (Wales) Act 2016

**The above provides that the determination on any matters requiring decisions under the above acts is delegated to the Head of Environment Department, with the exception of the following which will be the responsibility of the Planning Committee:**

1. Planning applications where the Councillor in whose ward a proposed development is located, or any other two members, submit(s) a written request to the Planning Manager within the established timescale so that the matter is referred for a decision by the Planning Committee. The written request should include clear planning reasons why a request is made for the application to be referred to Committee. A notification letter should be sent to all local members. The prescribed period for advertising shall be 16 calendar days from the date of the notification letter. A local member may discuss an application with officers before referring it to Committee.
2. Planning applications and/or objections/support for a planning application submitted by Elected Members or current staff of the Planning Service.
3. Planning applications and/or objections/support for a planning application submitted by a close relative of an Elected Member or current staff of the Planning Service. To this end, a "close relative" is defined as a mother or father, husband or wife, partner, child, brother or sister, grandmother or grandfather, grandson or granddaughter.
4. Applications which include an Environmental Impact Assessment.
5. ~~An application for consent to erect power lines with a capacity of 32KV or more.~~
6. ~~Applications where three or more observations, which are contrary to the officers' recommendation, have been received within the consultation period.~~
7. Planning applications that should be referred to Committee according to the Head of Environment Department.
8. Planning applications for housing where the number of houses provided is five or more
9. Planning applications for ~~a commercial, industrial or retail development that is larger than 500 square metres~~ the provision of a building or buildings where the floor space to be created by the development is 1000 square meters or more; or
10. Planning applications for developments on a site which is 0.5 hectares or more in size

~~11. Applications for more than five caravans.~~

~~12. Full planning applications for telecommunication masts and equipment.~~

'Planning applications' are defined as: full applications, householder applications, outline applications, reserved matters applications, listed building applications, Conservation Area applications, display of advertisements applications, minerals and waste applications, applications to remove or vary condition(s), applications to remove or vary Planning Obligations, non-material amendments applications.

# Agenda Item 8

Meeting	Communities Scrutiny Committee
Date	22 February 2018
Subject	Update on the Welsh Language and Planning Investigation
Working Group Chair	Councillor Gruffydd Williams
Cabinet Member	Councillor Dafydd Meurig

## BACKGROUND

- 1 The *Joint Local Development Plan for Gwynedd and Anglesey 2011-2026* was adopted by the Council at a Special Meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> July 2017.
- 2 *The Welsh Language and Planning Investigation* was established at the meeting of this Scrutiny Committee on 7<sup>th</sup> December 2017.
- 3 Here's the aim of the Investigation:

### Part 1 (this specifically for the draft SPG)

- Step A Ensure that the Consultation Process on the draft Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPA) is an inclusive one;
- Step B Scrutinise the draft framework for preparing the Welsh Language Statement and a draft framework for preparing Welsh Language Effect Assessment;
- Step C Scrutinise how it is intended to implement the SPG in the context of the requirements of the new TAN20;
- Step CH Consider an Overview of the comments received by the public during public consultation on the draft SPG in order to present an opinion to the Joint Planning Policy Committee before the final SPG is adopted.

### Part 2 (this specifically in the National policy/advice context)

- Step D Collect evidence to form ideas and suggestions for the consideration of Gwynedd Council's Environment Cabinet Member in order to influence National policy and planning guidances in the future.

## WORK SO FAR

4 This is a brief update to Members of the Scrutiny Committee on the work of the Working Group so far.

5 The Working Group has held 5 meetings between 9 January and 12 February.

6 During this period the attention has been focussed on the first leg of the Investigation:

**Step A Ensure that the consultation Process on the draft Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPA) is an inclusive one;**

7 The Planning Service Informed us that they had held an engagement exercise on the current Supplementary Planning Guidance in June 2016.

8 They provided a list of approximately 100 stake holders who had been invited to take part in the exercise and a brief report was considered by the Working Group members.

9 Some of the organisations listed were invited at random to meet with members of the Working Group in order to seek their opinions on the current Guidance and to note any suggestions regarding how to improve it.

10 Working Group Members met with representatives of the following:

- Welsh Language Commissioner
- Bangor University Welsh Department
- Cylch yr Iaith
- Hanfod
- Burum
- Gwynedd Planning Department

## MAIN FINDINGS SO FAR

11 Main Findings Of the Investigation so far  
(It is not possible to elaborate due to the request of the Planning Service to maintain the details as confidential at present). Briefly then:

- A clear statement is required stating that the developer needs to hold a public consultation on every development of 10 or more houses in an urban area and 5 or more in a rural/village area.
- It needs to be stated that a Welsh Language Effect Assessment needs to be held on every development that is referred to a public consultation.
- Members are concerned about the phraseology and format/style of the draft consultation document. It is difficult to see how members of the public are expected to understand the document in its current form and to contribute meaningfully to the consultation.

- Clear details are needed on the methodology of holding a Language Effect Assessment. This is a critical part of the Assessment. Full details of the methodology need to be included in the consultation.
- There is also ambiguity regarding the descriptions of Welsh Language Statement, and the relevance of the mitigating steps.
- A clearer description is required of what is expected of the language specialist from the Council's perspective and external individuals or organisations and their role.
- Members consider that the intention of the Planning Service to present a report of all comments made by consultees and a revised draft of the Guidance to Members of the Working Group by 31 May 2018 rather ambitious. We request an assurance of the ability to achieve this on time.

## NEXT STEPS

- 12 Step A – In order to complete Step A, the Working Group Members intend to do the following during February:
- Interview an officer from Gwynedd Council's *Hunaniaith*/Language Unit
  - Consider the responses received in full by the Planning Service to the Engagement exercise in 2016.
  - Evaluate the engagement exercise against the National Principles on Engagement with the public in Wales.
  - Consider details of the Consultation Plan for the new draft Guideline
- 13 **Step B Scrutinise the draft framework for preparing the Welsh Language Statement and a draft framework for preparing Welsh Language Effect Assessment;**
- Consider details of both draft frameworks
  - Consider details of the current methodology
  - Consider the details of the draft methodology
- 14 Meeting of the Local Development Plan Panel on 9<sup>th</sup> March 2018
- Members of the Working Group to present Main Findings and comments of the Scrutiny Committee on 22 February.
  - Members of the Working Group to present comments following from their further work after 22 February.
- 15 **Members of the Communities Scrutiny Committee are requested to:**
- **Consider the Update and question Members of the Working Group**
  - **Approve the work so far**
  - **Approve the next steps**
  - **Approve the Main Findings**
  - **Make any further comments to Members of the Working Group so that they may present them to Local Development Plan Panel on 9 March 2018.**