

**GWYNEDD COUNCIL
OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY
ANNUAL REPORT
2014-2015**

*The Effect of Overview and Scrutiny on life in
Gwynedd*

A. Corporate Scrutiny Committee

Chairman: Councillor Dyfrig Jones

Vice-chairman: Councillor Jason Humphreys

Terms of Reference

- Corporate Strategy
- Partnerships
- Engagement
- Business Transformation
- Service Efficiency
- Services for Tomorrow
- Outcomes Agreement
- Workforce
- Customer Care
- Right to Call In Audit Committee matters

1. Scrutiny Investigations

No Scrutiny Investigations were held this year, rather the members focused on monitoring the progress of the investigations held and on implementing an effective method of identifying appropriate items for scrutiny at committees.

2. Work of the Committee

Included below are the matters that have been discussed at the five committee meetings held during 2014/15.

AP1 Gwynedd Amdani/ Procuring Cheaper Energy

Scrutiny undertaken

Consideration was given to reports by 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 to facilitate and promote the Wales Together scheme and its associated benefits to the residents of the county.

The scheme was considered on more than one occasion, and an update was given by the Cabinet Member in January 2015 when the situation was clearer about the scheme and its potential impact on the residents of Gwynedd.

Recommendations

Originally, the Cabinet Member was asked to:

- Consider the members' concerns regarding the lack of progress on this matter and consider contacting other councils running successful schemes to learn lessons.
- Look at the concerns regarding the Wales Together scheme.
- Consider ways of referring more people to the Wales Together scheme as a way of improving it, using the Council's website and Newyddion Gwynedd to do so.
- Look at the possibility of the Council being able to establish and run its own scheme, and consider the implications in terms of resources.

Following an update that was given by the Cabinet Member, he was asked to consider:

- How best to advertise the scheme and to reach the communities that needed it most e.g. through the housing associations.
- How to ensure the quality of the service provided by the new energy suppliers.

Anticipated Impact

Improve the situation for the people of Gwynedd by giving the opportunity to procure cheaper energy.

AP2 Systems Thinking

Scrutiny undertaken

Consideration was given to how successful the introduction of a systems thinking system in the Council had been to date and have changes been made in the interests of the people of Gwynedd? A report was submitted by the Cabinet Member answering questions on the above, along with schemes to incorporate the procedure throughout the Council in the future ensuring that all staff are aware and are working in the interests of the residents of Gwynedd.

Recommendations

The Cabinet Member was asked:

- To submit progress monitoring data on the success of the two pilot schemes held to the committee to show that there is a difference in the services.
- To try to ensure that people are clear about the relationship between Systems Thinking and Ffordd Gwynedd, as both aspire to improve things in the interests of the people of Gwynedd.
- To consider the need to manage risk, take ownership of multi-departmental problems and ensure that the change of culture is disseminated throughout the Council, and to submit a timetable to achieve this.

Anticipated Impact

It is clear that the residents of Gwynedd are meant to be central to everything that is done. In moving ahead to incorporate the new system throughout all Council services, it will improve services for Gwynedd residents during challenging financial times.

AP3 Scrutiny arrangements for the Gwynedd and Anglesey Local Services Board

Scrutiny undertaken

Consider the referral to develop arrangements to scrutinise the work of the Gwynedd and Anglesey Local Services Board jointly. Recommend the best way forward in order to ensure the establishment of correct governance arrangements.

A presentation was given by the Senior Partnerships Manager (Gwynedd and Anglesey) 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 Board.

Recommendations

Following further consultation outside the Committee, together with consideration at two meetings of the Committee, the following recommendations were made to the scrutiny arrangements

development team:

- That a joint scrutiny panel should be established (Gwynedd and Anglesey)
- That there was a need to ensure correct membership, ensuring that panel members are independent and trained to undertake the role
- That there was a need to ensure clear accountability and reporting arrangements for Gwynedd before proceeding with the final arrangements

Anticipated Impact

By scrutinising and monitoring the performance of the Local Services Board on its Business Plan, we will ensure the public accountability of the Local Services Board for the residents of Gwynedd for its annual work schemes. Specifically, establishing the correct arrangements to enable this to happen effectively is a first step on this journey.

AP4 Update on the Sustainable Procurement Scrutiny Investigation

Scrutiny undertaken

In 2013/14 a scrutiny investigation was undertaken on Sustainable Procurement, in order to ensure that the Council's performance is improved and to contribute to the Council's aim of keeping the benefits local by protecting and creating jobs for the people of Gwynedd and enabling more local businesses to be competitive and to survive. An update was given by the Cabinet Member reporting on the new arrangements of procuring based on expenditure categories rather than the current system of procuring by department.

Recommendations

- To secure challenging results for 2014-17 and set an ambition to this end
- To implement the strategy and report back to the Committee in due course on its success

Anticipated Impact

More effective procurement based on expenditure categories, in order to bring about benefits for the residents of Gwynedd.

AP5 Efficiency Savings Strategy Proposals

Scrutiny undertaken

It was decided to establish a working group from amongst all the Scrutiny Members, to meet several times to discuss all the efficiency savings schemes in detail and to try to assess their impact on the residents of Gwynedd. Bearing in mind that it was efficiency savings / managing the demand that was in question, it was expected that the effect on results for citizens should be less than that we would see in any cuts regime.

All the recommendations were submitted to the Corporate Scrutiny Committee for consideration before submitting the following final recommendations to the Cabinet Member.

Recommendations

The following recommendations were noted for schemes to be implemented in 2015/16. (Note that further recommendations were also submitted for schemes to be implemented in the subsequent financial year, with further scrutiny work to come on those schemes. Those details have not been included below).

C25 - Ceasing to provide out of hours systems support service – The committee considered the saving in detail and gave detailed consideration to the proposal's possible impact. Members were

concerned in general that not enough evaluation had been carried out in terms of the risk and that the practical aspects had not been considered in enough detail. Rather than reacting after things have gone wrong, it would be better to try to avoid such a situation in the first place.

PB1 - Procurement - It is recommended that the Corporate Scrutiny Committee ensures the right balance between saving money and keeping the benefit local.

P6 – Decommission the service level agreement with South Gwynedd Women’s Aid – To ask the Cabinet not to proceed immediately and refer the proposal to the Services Scrutiny Committee for it to scrutinise the impact further, on the understanding that a decision would be needed before 1 April 2015.

P7 – Decommission the service level agreement with Bangor Women’s Aid – To ask the Cabinet not to proceed immediately and refer the proposal to the Services Scrutiny Committee for it to scrutinise the impact further, on the understanding that a decision would be needed before 1 April 2015.

Anticipated Impact

Consider the impact on the specific schemes mentioned above in more detail in order to ensure as little impact as possible on the residents of Gwynedd.

AP6 Engagement Strategy

Scrutiny undertaken

As seen regularly in the remit of this Committee, matters are often brought before the committee due to regular developments. The Committee wished to scrutinise progress on the Engagement Strategy following consideration of the matter in September 2013. The Cabinet Member was questioned regarding the ambition of the Engagement Strategy, particularly in light of the increasing financial challenge.

Recommendations

- That the ambition for improving engagement must be realistic in light of the new financial challenge that the Council is facing.
- The need for more local engagement and better engagement in light of the cuts that are on the horizon.
- The need to standardise the emphasis placed on engagement by different departments.
- That it is necessary for the Council to do everything in its ability to realise the requirements of the strategy whilst being realistic that it will not be possible to address everything.

Anticipated Impact

Engagement is extremely important, but also a significant challenge which is impossible to address in its entirety. Ensuring improved engagement will lead to improved understanding by the Members and the public, particularly during a very challenging time with the current financial climate.

AP7 Consultative Document on Local Government Reform

Scrutiny undertaken

Consider and submit observations on a series of matters arising in the Consultation Document on Local Government Reform, which outlines a number of matters the Government is considering in relation to the organisation and layout of local authorities in Wales.

Recommendations

Several detailed recommendations were submitted to the Cabinet Member in order to assist in

drawing up an official response on behalf of Gwynedd Council to all the various matters which required attention in the document. As well as the detailed recommendations, the following general recommendations were submitted:

- That the committee welcomed the opportunity to offer observations on the document, although concerned about the variety in the proposals put forward
- That it is essential to emphasise the importance of moving on as quickly as possible to set a direction for local government reorganisation.

Anticipated Impact

Ensure independent challenge of the Government's proposals and present observations to be incorporated in the Council's response to the consultation. Responding to the consultation is an opportunity to try to persuade a change in some matters in the consultation in the interests of Local Government, which will result in improving the democratic process in Local Government, which in turn, will lead to better services for the residents of Gwynedd.

AP8 Managing Demand

Scrutiny undertaken

Consider the update submitted by the Cabinet Leader to the work taking place in the Council to try to manage the demand for services through early intervention and preventative work.

Recommendations

The following recommendations were submitted to the Cabinet Member for consideration:

- The need for everyone to be aware of the need to manage demand.
- The need to change culture amongst the staff, as well as the people of Gwynedd using our services.
- The tendency to respond to the current emergency rather than looking further ahead, and, as resources are diminishing, there is a need to invest in the services in a way that would save money in the long term and give the citizen a better quality of life.

Anticipated Impact

The Council cannot cope with the increasing demand for services unless it implements cuts to services. It is clear that there is a need to identify new and innovative methods of providing services, if we are to reduce the number of services to be cut.

B Services Scrutiny Committee

Chairman - Councillor Peter Read

Vice-chair - Councillor Beth Lawton

Terms of Reference

- Older Persons
- Adults
- Families
- Children and Young People
- Education
- Pathway to Employment
- Health

Scrutiny Investigations

One Scrutiny Investigation was held during the year.

Progress was tracked on delivering the recommendations of one Investigation.

BY1 From Hospital to Home Scrutiny Investigation (Part 1)

Scrutiny undertaken

An investigation was held by a group made up from the members of the Scrutiny Committee to ascertain the suitability and effectiveness of patient discharge arrangements from Hospital to Home in Gwynedd.

Recommendations

The Cabinet Member with responsibility for matters relating to Care was asked to:

- Check whether or not the Discharge Protocol by Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board (BCUHB) has been reviewed and is consistent with the operational arrangements of Gwynedd Council and partners in the community.
- Ask the Adults, Health and Well-being Service to collaborate with the Hywel Dda Health Board to agree on a hospital discharge protocol and on practical arrangements for its implementation.
- Review collaboration and communication arrangements between those teams that facilitate hospital discharges and transfers and those agencies offering support in the community in order to identify opportunities to improve the Service for patients and look at good practice in other areas.
- Review the seven day discharge and transfer service that has been temporarily offered at Ysbyty Gwynedd and consider any relevant matters when developing a similar service within the Intermediate Care Project in the same field.
- Report back to the Scrutiny Committee on the progress of the Intermediate Care Project which is equivalent to an expenditure of £1.3 million.
- Press for improvements to the Transfer Lounge making it a comfortable and purpose-built room that includes changing facilities and moving the disabled toilets closer to the Lounge for convenience.
- Ask BCUHB for an update on their schemes to implement 'More than Words'.
- Develop ways to compile data in terms of older patients' satisfaction on the discharge and transfer service in order to ensure that they have a voice in the process of developing the service further and improving the provision.

The Cabinet Member for Care accepted the recommendations. They have been tracked and it was seen that there are plans afoot to realise the recommendations.

Anticipated Impact

Improving Hospital Discharge arrangements for the residents of Gwynedd

BY2 Tracking the Quality of Education Scrutiny Investigation – Quality Promotion Project

- In 2012, the Cabinet Member for Education noted her intention to undertake work to gather detailed evidence regarding the consistency of the quality, experiences and opportunities offered to Gwynedd's school pupils.
- The Scrutiny Committee agreed to hold a Scrutiny Investigation to investigate some aspects of the work.
- The Final Report was submitted to the Cabinet Member in January 2014.

Scrutiny undertaken

May 2014

- The national recommendations made by the Welsh Government's Minister for Education and Skills to improve GCSE English results were noted.
- The Cabinet Member for Education was asked for reasons why the results were lower than expected in January 2014 and what steps would be taken to ensure that this would not happen again.

June 2014

- A Progress Report was considered on the Secondary Schools Quality Promotion Project and the following observations were made during scrutiny:
 - The collaboration with Bangor University was welcomed
 - Some concerns were noted about the effectiveness of the procedure for supporting Body Governors.
- The report of the Cabinet Member on the January 2014 GCSE English Examinations was considered.
- The main point was accepted that the oversight was mainly down to aspects of assessment rather than any fundamental weaknesses in teaching/presenting methods.

September 2014

- The Draft Action Plan of the Quality Promotion Project was considered.

December 2014

- An Update on the progress of the Education Promotion Project was considered and members made the following observations:
 - The work of collaborating with Bangor University to increase the number of Welsh-medium mathematics teachers was welcomed
 - It was noted that more attention was required on bridging between the primary and secondary sectors.
 - The possibility of appointing a Strategic Leader for Catchment Areas, wherever possible, was welcomed.

Recommendations

- To approve the progress made thus far but there is a need to continue monitoring in the future.
- To give detailed consideration to the recommendations and observations from ESTYN following the visit held between 2 and 5 December 2014 (see item BP10 below).

Anticipated Impact

Improve and secure the consistency of the experiences offered to children and young people in the county in order to give every individual an opportunity to develop to their full potential.

Work of the Scrutiny Committee

BP1 Additional Learning Needs and Inclusion

Scrutiny undertaken

June 2014

The proposals of the Cabinet Member for Education to **relocate** Ysgol Hafod Lon and Tŷ Aran Unit to a new site in Penrhyndeudraeth to be opened on 1 September 2016 were considered.

It was noted that the new provision would increase capacity and offer an additional residential element for the residents of Gwynedd.

It was also noted that work was underway to **redesign provision** at all of the County's schools.

The Cabinet approved the proposals to **relocate**.

October 2014

An update from the Cabinet Member for Education was considered.

November 2014

An update from the Cabinet Member for Education was considered.

December 2014

A request was received by the Cabinet Member for Education to establish a Task Group to scrutinise the **Additional Learning Needs Strategy**.

The members nominated 4 members to the Group.

The Group convened in January 2015. The members state their concern that no other meetings were held during the year.

January 2015

The Cabinet approved additional capital funding to address the impact of inflation on the **relocation** plan.

Recommendations

October 2014

Members expressed concern and asked for further information on the following points:

- Details of the consultation on redesigning the provision across the County.
- Response of SNAP Cymru to the questionnaires sent to parents
- Details of the efforts to raise parents' awareness of the changes.

November 2014

Some of the members made the following observations asking the Cabinet Member to respond as soon as possible:

- It appears there is a failure to engage with parents
- What efforts will be made to raise the awareness of parents of the changes?
- What arrangements will be in place to raise awareness of parents whose children are statemented?

March 2015

- Asked for the Group to convene to receive updates on the plans.

Anticipated Impact

Improve the provision for additional learning needs and offer a brand new residential provision; restructure the provision across the County and ensure parents' understanding of the changes.

BP2 When I'm Ready - Aftercare Project

- The aim of the plan is to better prepare young people, Adult Services and others before a young person leaves the Council's care.
- The plan is part of a pilot by Welsh Government that will be a key part of the new Social Services Measure.
- The cost of the scheme for Gwynedd Council's Children's Service during 2013-14 was £47,000 to support 7 young persons with the cost likely to increase to £90,000 for 2014-15.

Scrutiny undertaken

May 2014

The scrutiny members sent the following questions to the Cabinet Member for Care:

- What are the Council's current arrangements to prepare looked-after children and young people for the time when they move from the Council's care?
- When does the planning for the period when they leave care start?
- Since when has the 'When I'm Ready' scheme been implemented in Gwynedd? How many children and young people does this affect?
- What is the Service's assessment of the success of the pilot and any associated costs?
- What is the probability that the pilot will be extended and mainstreamed and what will the implications of this be?

June 2014

The response of the Cabinet Member for care to the above questions was considered, and the members asked further questions.

Recommendations

There were no specific recommendations by the Scrutiny Members.

Anticipated Impact

Ensure that the Pilot Scheme makes a difference and improves experiences for young people as they grow into adults and leave the Council's care.

BP3 Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board (BCUHB)

- BCUHB's new Chief Executive had been appointed.
- The scrutiny members considered that it would be beneficial to obtain details of the Board's plans and to have an opportunity to question the Chief Executive.

Scrutiny undertaken

September 2014

A consultation was held with all Gwynedd Council members and Anglesey councillors and questions were sent to the Chief Executive on the following themes.

- The service's performance in terms of placing patients on long waiting lists; delays in waiting for triage assessment; the slowness of the emergency calls service at times; and keeping patients in hospital for too long.
- How does the Health Board realise its language policy to meet the language needs of Welsh-speaking patients?
- How do you intend to win back the confidence of the people of Gwynedd?
- What is your vision for small hospitals?
- How can collaboration be improved and who should lead?
- What are the Board's intentions in relation to preventative services?

- What role will the Third Sector have in future, and how will it be funded?
- What is the impact of a shortage of GPs on the service, and how will you deal with this?

October 2014

The Chief Executive gave a presentation on his vision for the Health service and responded to the above mentioned questions.

The Scrutiny Committee members agreed to work in partnership with the Health Board.

Recommendations

There were no specific recommendations by the Scrutiny Members.

Anticipated Impact

Working in partnership is likely to improve provision for Gwynedd's residents.

BP4 Care and Social Services Inspectorate Wales (CSSIW)

The Agency, which is part of the Welsh Government, is responsible for inspecting social care services in order to ensure they are safe for the people who use them.

Scrutiny undertaken

December 2014

The Agency's Area Manager for Gwynedd and Anglesey submitted the Performance Evaluation Report for Gwynedd 2013-14 to members of the Scrutiny Committee.

The members made the following observations:

- There is a need to consult effectively with the County's service users and residents regarding the new requirements in the Social Services and Welfare Measure.
- Concern was expressed that it was not clear how savings could be realised without having a detrimental impact on services.
- The Agency's comments on the challenge to influence and cooperate effectively with the Health Board and other key partners were noted.
- It was noted that the Agency was continuing with its discussions with the Council regarding the role of the Corporate Director.
- A request was made for information about complaints to be shared with members of the Scrutiny Committee in a timely manner.

January 2015

The Scrutiny Members considered the following:

- Summary Report on Complaints Received in Quarter 1 and Quarter 2 (2014-15).
- Guidelines for dealing with Complaints published by the Welsh Government in August 2014

March 2015

- The response of the Director of Social Services to the recommendations of CSSIW's Performance Evaluation Report 2013-2014 was considered and it was noted that there was an improvement plan in place that would be scrutinised by the relevant Cabinet Members.

Recommendations

- That the Director of Gwynedd Social Services formulates an Action Plan of the identified fields and submits an update on the programme by March 2015 to members of the Scrutiny Committee.
- To request a Progress Report on the achievement of the Improvement Plan in October 2015
- To defer scrutinising the item on Complaints until the Annual Complaints Report is ready.

Anticipated Impact

Using the Inspectors' work to ensure that improvements are developed and implemented in accordance with the needs of the users and the County's residents.

BP5 Savings from South Gwynedd Domestic Abuse Service and Women's Aid Bangor Service

- This was one of the Council's savings schemes
- Its aim was to make savings by cutting money given to support the work of these two organisations with needy/vulnerable people.

Scrutiny undertaken

December 2014

- The report of the Efficiency Savings Working Group was submitted by the Chairman of the Scrutiny Forum for the attention of the Committee members.
- The members noted that it was not clear from the information received that this saving would not have a detrimental impact on users.

February 2015

- The Cabinet Member for Children and Young People's report was submitted to the members of the Scrutiny Committee with more details about the likely impact of the saving.
- From the evidence submitted, members were of the opinion that implementing the saving could have a negative effect on some of the vulnerable people in the County.

Recommendations

December 2014

- The service offered by both organisations are an important part of the fabric of services for a substantial number of vulnerable children in the county and those numbers should be known before the Cabinet makes its decision.
- There is a strong preventative element to the work of the organisations that saves possible higher costs for the statutory services at a later point. There is a need for the Cabinet to be clear that a short-term saving does not lead to higher spending in due course.
- Financial information must be received regarding the wider impact of this saving on the budgets of the bodies in question, including their ability to attract further grants, before making any decisions.

The Cabinet accepted the recommendations and deferred the decision.

February 2015

- It is not appropriate to cancel the contracts of both organisations as efficiency savings.
- To refer the matter to be considered under the Council's cuts procedure.
- Relevant officers should work with officers from both organisations to ascertain what the impact would be on them of operating without core funding from the Council.

The Cabinet Member for Children and Families accepted the recommendations and referred the matter from the Council's Savings Scheme to be considered next year for the cuts process.

Anticipated Impact

Maintain the level of provision for vulnerable children and families while undertaking a full assessment on any potential future cuts.

BP6 Saving on External Providers of Home Care Contracts

- This was one of the Council's savings schemes
- The aim was to make a saving for the Council by not increasing payments to external organisations that provide care services on behalf of the Council.

Scrutiny undertaken

December 2014

The report of the Savings Working Group was submitted by the Chairman of the Scrutiny Forum for the attention of the Committee members.

Recommendations

- To reduce the figure of the original saving from £942,000 to £373,000 to be implemented over three years
- To reconsider all the fees annually and to consider the relevant context and the status of the market at the time.
- That the efficiency savings are fully compliant with the necessary legal requirements.

The Cabinet accepted the recommendations.

Anticipated Impact

Maintain the external home care provision for residents and service users during a time of transformation.

BP7 Enablement

The Enablement service is offered by the Council's Adults Services as a short-term service to enable adults who are eligible to receive support from social services to stay at home and maintain or improve their independence and quality of life.

Scrutiny undertaken

January 2015

- The scrutiny members considered a report that was submitted by the Cabinet Member for Care and the Director of Social Services to the Cabinet in November 2014 expressing concerns about overspending in the field of older people.
- A number of reasons were noted for the overspending and among these was the need to ensure that we do not provide a free enablement service to those who will not benefit from it.
- The scrutiny members asked for further information on the overspend and a more detailed breakdown of the use of the enablement service.

February 2015

- A report was submitted to the scrutiny members by the Cabinet Member for Adults and Health and the Director of Social Services.
- Explanations were provided on a number of matters, however concerns remained on some matters.
- It was noted that there was confusion regarding whether or not the provision of a free service for a 6 or 12 week period was still available.
- There is a need to ensure that effective monitoring arrangements are in place in order to ascertain the implications on budget.
- There was disagreement regarding whether or not individuals wanting to leave hospital had to wait for the service.
- It was noted that a separate report on the overspend would be submitted to the Audit Committee.
- The importance of receiving feedback from doctors and community nurses before such schemes are removed was noted.

March 2015

- The performance report for Quarter 3 was submitted to the members of the Scrutiny

Committee.

- It was noted that the performance had deteriorated further during Quarter 3 with an increase in the number of people who return early to the process 'due to the ineffectiveness of the principles of Enablement.'

Recommendations

February 2015

- In light of the concerns raised, the members of the From Hospital to Home (Part 2) Scrutiny Investigation were asked to meet with the Corporate Director and the Adults Services Manager for a further discussion.

March 2015

- It was decided not to schedule any further reports and to keep an eye on the developmental work and the performance.

Anticipated Impact

Provide an effective and efficient Enablement service in the interests of Gwynedd service users.

BP8 Looked After Children

It is a statutory duty for Gwynedd Council to put safeguarding arrangements in place and to work with others, including the Safeguarding Children Board, to ensure the well-being of the children of Gwynedd.

Scrutiny undertaken

January 2015

- The report of the Wales Audit Office (WAO) on Gwynedd Council's Safeguarding Children Arrangements published in October 2014 was considered.
- The Committee noted the Cabinet's decision in December 2014 to approve a work programme to address the recommendations of the WAO Report and safeguarding children matters noted in earlier reports by ESTYN in March 2013 and the Care and Social Services Inspectorate Wales (CSSIW) in August 2014.
- The Committee considered the performance for Quarter 2 (July-September 2014) on the SCC/025 indicator: *'Percentage of statutory visits to looked after children that were meant to be undertaken during the year which were undertaken in accordance with the regulations'*.
- It was noted that only five members of the Committee had registered to attend Corporate Parenting training to be held in April. There was some ambiguity regarding whether or not there was a need to attend this training on an annual basis and whether or not there was a need for members who are active in the field of vulnerable people to receive the training.

February 2015

- The Cabinet Member's update on the SCC/025 indicator was considered
 - The Cabinet Member was congratulated on the significant improvement in the performance of Quarter 3.
 - The explanation on weak performance in the past was accepted due to problems in incorrectly recording the information and that this had now been resolved.
 - Consideration was given to the observations of ESTYN's letter to the Chief Executive dated 5 February 2015 following ESTYN's Monitoring Visit between 2 and 5 December 2014.
 - The Inspectorate's observations that the Council had acted quickly to address the recommendations arising from the review in 2013 were noted and that the Council would be discounted from any further follow-up actions.
- That the Council has addressed the recommendations on safeguarding to a vast degree.

Recommendations

January 2015

- The members noted their concern to the Cabinet Member for Children and Families about the lack of progress on the SCC/025 indicator and asked for a report providing an update and details for the reasons for the lack of progress and what action was being taken to deal with the situation.

February 2015

- The Cabinet Member and the officers were thanked for their careful work and the improvement in performance in this field by ensuring responses to the Inspectors' reports.

Anticipated Impact

Maintain safe services for the County's vulnerable children.

BP9 Schools Effectiveness and Improvement Service (GwE)

- GwE was established as a partnership between the six north Wales local authorities to be accountable to the councils and to deliver their statutory duties in relation to school improvement.
- GwE's main functions are to:
 - Undertake monitoring visits each term
 - Support schools in the red/orange risk category
 - Provide support before and after inspections

Scrutiny undertaken

December 2014

- Considered a report on GwE's work with Gwynedd schools and the following observations were made by the scrutiny members:
 - That the free school meals indicator was a very crude reflection of school performance.
 - It would be useful to share the example of the support provided to red category schools with all members of the County's school governing bodies.
 - Some concern by members that mentoring links involved too much travelling for some head teachers.

March 2015

- Concerns were noted by some head teachers that GwE did not provide training through the medium of Welsh.
- A request was made for a list of the training undertaken, and what will be available in future.

Recommendations

- To give further thought to strengthen the understanding of collaboration
- Provide Welsh-medium training courses.

Anticipated Impact

Improve the support provided to the County's schools to achieve more in the interests of the pupils of Gwynedd.

BP10 ESTYN (Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Education and Training in Wales)

Scrutiny undertaken

- A letter sent by Mr Clive Phillips, the Assistant Director of ESTYN, was submitted to the members of the Scrutiny Committee.
- The letter noted the Council's achievement on implementing the improvements identified in March 2013.
- The achievement was assessed in a visit to the Council between 2 and 5 December 2014.
- The Inspectorate's observation that Gwynedd Council has achieved adequate progress in relation to the recommendations deriving from the March 2013 inspection was noted.
- The need for Scrutiny Committee members to consider the positions of individual schools was noted, along with retaining an overview of the field.
- It was noted that it was considered good practice to invite individual head teachers and the Chairs of Governing bodies to attend a meeting of the Scrutiny Committee to be challenged on their performance.
- It was noted that ESTYN had not inspected GwE but had undertaken a thematic inspection at the request of the Minister for Education and it intended to look at the performance of GwE in due course.
- It was noted that the methodology of ESTYN school inspections would not change as a result of cuts to school budgets.

Recommendations

- The Cabinet Member and the officers were thanked for the improvements achieved.
- The scrutiny members will wait to see the improvements reflected in the Education Service's Annual Report which will be submitted to the next meeting (see BP15 below).
- The Department is asked to share clear information regarding the performance of individual schools with the members.

Anticipated Impact

Continuous improvement of the quality of education and the achievement of Gwynedd's pupils.

BP11 New Head of Education

Scrutiny undertaken

- A presentation was given by the Head of Education outlining his vision for the education service.
- The Head of Department was thanked and members made some observations.
- Attention was drawn to a particular challenge in terms of a reduction in resources and the opportunity to collaborate, share good practice and secure high quality leadership was noted.
- The Head of Department was asked to ensure that the service would monitor and effectively challenge underperforming schools.

Recommendations

To express gratitude for the presentation and ask the Head of Department to attend the Area Forums to share his vision.

Anticipated Impact

To communicate the Head of Education's vision as much as possible in the interests of the County's residents.

BP12 Schools' Organisation Project

- This is one of the Council's Strategic Plan projects for 2013-2017 with the aim of improving the suitability of the schools system in Gwynedd.
- Five targets to be delivered in 2014-15 were set as part of the project.

Scrutiny undertaken

January 2015

- Consideration was given to the Quarter 2 performance report. The assessment noted that there had been acceptable progress, but some scrutiny members expressed concern.
- The Cabinet Member for Education was asked to provide a report to address the following points:
 - How many staff work in the Schools Reorganisation Unit and what is the cost of running the Unit?
 - Who determined the appointment/service of the Head of Ysgol Friars to be responsible for Ysgol y Gader, Dolgellau?
 - An analysis of the savings realised until now from school closures, minus any costs related to establishing area schools.
 - The impact in terms of improvement in the pupil's standard of education following establishing the new schools.
 - An explanation on the Cabinet's decision to favour the Community Catchment Area Follow Through School for 3 to 16 year olds model for the catchment-area of Ysgol y Gader.

February 2015

- The Cabinet Member's report on the Project's achievement to date was considered and the following was noted by the scrutiny members:
 - Whilst accepting that there were positive aspects in the report, concerns were noted that the report did not refer to the standards of education in the new establishments, and a further report on this element was requested.
 - The proposal to revisit the Primary Education of the Best Quality for the Children of Gwynedd Strategy (2009) in order to address problems in Meirionnydd's secondary schools.

March 2015

- The Quarter 3 performance report was considered and the Cabinet Member for Education was asked for the following:
 - Evidence of the standard of education specifically in the new area schools.
 - Information about the number of vacant jobs in the County's schools.
 - Given that many schools had failed to fill head teacher posts recently, does this affect the children's education?
 - Details of the Head of Education Department's vision on empty spaces.

Recommendations

- To undertake a detailed analysis and look at the lessons learnt from the plans as soon as possible and to address aspects relating to the standard of education along with other matters.
- Resurrect the Schools Re-organisation Working Group

Anticipated Impact

Ensure that the Schools Reorganisation Project makes a positive contribution towards offering education of the highest standards possible to the residents of Gwynedd.

BP13 Gyda'n Gilydd Project

- This is one of the Council's Strategic Plan projects for 2013-2017 with the aim of contributing towards providing better experiences and opportunities to vulnerable groups of Children, Young People and Families in Gwynedd.
- Three targets to be delivered in 2014-15 were set as part of the project.

Scrutiny undertaken

The Quarter 3 performance report on the project was considered and it was noted that the project was not likely to achieve the pledges made during the year. The Scrutiny Members asked the Cabinet Member for Children and Families to provide a report to the next meeting of the Scrutiny Committee and to address the following points:

- Details regarding the eight recommendations on how to develop the Gyda'n Gilydd project work undertaken by the University of Wales.
- An explanation of the reasons for the difference between the outcomes of quarter 2 and quarter 3.
- Details of the total number of families who receive support.
- How many families are referred by Cartrefi Cymunedol Gwynedd?

The Cabinet Member's request to postpone the report was accepted.

RecommendationsAnticipated Impact**BP14 Ambulance Service**Scrutiny undertaken

- Concerns were noted by members about deficiencies in the ambulance service in some rural areas.
- A written response to a number of matters was received from the Interim Chief Executive of the Welsh Ambulance Service NHS Trust
- The Chairman and the Members' Support and Scrutiny Manager met with the temporary Head of Operations at Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board to voice the concerns and to discuss new commissioning arrangements.
- The information and the feedback from the meeting were shared with scrutiny members.

Recommendations

To monitor the situation.

Anticipated Impact

To assist the Ambulance Service to learn of the difficulties and the deficiencies within the service in order to improve it in the interests of the County's residents.

BP15 Annual Report on the Performance of the Authority's Schools 2013-14

- **The report notes the details of the educational results**

Scrutiny undertaken

The Cabinet Member for Education's report was considered and the following observations were made by scrutiny members:

- The work planned by the Education Service on targets and rationalising assessments

was welcomed.

- It was suggested that a special effort was needed to deal with the situation of a lack of head teachers, specialist teachers and governors in some areas of the county.
- Some of the main priorities of the Head of Education in dealing with school leadership, supporting primary head teachers, making leadership posts attractive and strengthening the service's central resources were noted.
- The scrutiny members wished to receive a report from the Education Service on proposals for alternative models of school leadership.
- It was asked whether a lack of improvement in science results for Key Stage 2 (KS2) was a problem related to performance or in terms of setting the expected levels.
- An explanation was requested for the deterioration over the last two years in the number of schools that do not perform as well in KS2.
- It was suggested that there was a need to look at an alternative method of recording free school meals.
- Concern was noted that there was a 10% difference between the performance of boys and girls.
- A request was made for details regarding how the Service works with the schools that underperform over a period of two or three years.
- The Committee requested reports to be submitted to the Preparatory Meeting on the percentage of:
 - teachers who are absent from work due to stress.
 - children who are taken out of schools to go on holiday, per area.
- The importance of continuity from primary to secondary was noted.
- It was noted that an influx of population not fluent in Welsh and English could affect performance.

Recommendations

- To introduce an electronic system so that it is not possible to identify which pupils receive free school meals.
- To maintain the current target for pupils who follow vocational courses at the schools and continue to track them locally.
- To assess the outcomes of the Welsh-medium Education Scrutiny Investigation on the authority's language policy and act accordingly.
- To ensure accuracy and rationalise teachers' assessments of pupils' achievement levels.
- To form a plan to target prospective specialist teachers and collaborate with the colleges in future.

Anticipated Impact

Continue to improve the educational experiences of Gwynedd's children and young people.

C. Communities Scrutiny Committee

Chair Councillor Angela Russell
Vice-chair Councillor Mandy Williams-Davies (up to December 2014), Councillor Caerwyn Roberts (from February, 2015)

Terms of Reference

- Economy and Regeneration
- Green Gwynedd
- Environment
- Transport Network and Community Transport
- Empowering Communities
- Waste
- Housing
- Language
- Carbon Footprint Reduction
- Unitary Development Plan

1. Scrutiny Investigations

Work was undertaken on two Scrutiny Investigations during the year:-

CY1 Scrutiny Investigation – Post-16 Education Transport	
<u>Scrutiny undertaken</u> The Scrutiny Investigation was established to work on an agreed brief with the Cabinet Member for Education to consider: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• How the Authority's Post-16 Education Transport Policy is implemented in the county's secondary schools and further education colleges.• The impact of implementing the Post-16 Education Transport Policy on post-16 education providers, learners and their families. The Investigation's brief was extended when the Cabinet Member sought the Investigation's advice on the challenge of finding efficiency savings in the field.	
<u>Recommendations of the Scrutiny Members to Councillor Gareth Thomas, Cabinet Member for Education</u> The Investigation submitted the following recommendations to the Cabinet Member:-	
In the spirit of the Gwynedd way, and in order to improve the situation for pupils/students and their families, lessen the processes and work closer to negotiate with Llandrillo menai Group to be an agent for Gwynedd Council	√
The Post-16 Transport Policy should be reviewed to secure a suitable and purposeful policy to address the requirements of the Learner Travel (Wales) Measure 2008 and the Learner Travel – Statutory Provision and Operation Guidance, June 2014.	√
We should build in the foundations of working in partnership with various establishments to arrange a purposeful service.	√

We should have a purposeful Post-16 Transport Policy that considers the students/learners and their families' means to pay for transport costs.	√
Consistency is needed in the provision and the arrangements across Gwynedd, in order to give everyone an equal and fair opportunity.	√
Catchment areas need to be reviewed to reduce the travelling times and distances for pupils/students in accordance with the Learner Travel Statutory Guidance.	√
Post-16 education providers need to collaborate to put systems in place to collect data to find out whether travelling costs lead to students dropping out of further education.	√
Appropriate customer care indicators should be set for the service.	√
We must secure the joint understanding of the further education providers and Galw Gwynedd of Gwynedd Council's Post-16 Education Transport Policy.	√
In the spirit of the Gwynedd Way, it must be ensured that users' questions are answered on their first contact.	√
Gwynedd Council and the post-16 education providers must collaborate closely to strengthen and reconcile the information provided for pupils and their families.	√
Relevant and appropriate information should be provided to pupils/students and their families using various and suitable methods that ensure an equal opportunity for everyone.	√
Develop a system that combines changing to a ticket system, transferring transport services to the college and the administration of college transport tickets to the Llandrillo Menai Group, including:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Securing one price for all. • Offering equal opportunity to college students and secondary school pupils. • Providing financial loans to purchase a vehicle / motorbike in order to facilitate access to further education and training. • Continuing with the good practice of the provision of peripatetic teachers / lecturers and build on the foundation of working in partnership, and review regularly. • Undertaking an impact assessment on any proposal to change the transport provision, and ensure that the final decision is based on those assessments. 	?

Anticipated Impact

The aim of the Investigation was to offer a fair and sustainable system for the future. Achieving this will depend on how the Cabinet Member implements the recommendations.

CY2 Homelessness Scrutiny Investigation

Scrutiny undertaken

The Scrutiny Investigation was established to work on an agreed brief with the Cabinet Member for Housing to consider the following questions:-

- What is the provision pattern of the Authority and its partners in its entirety for homeless

people in Gwynedd?

- How suitable is the provision of the Authority and its partners for homeless people – Families – Women – Young people – Single men?
- Does the provision for homeless people meet the user's needs?
- How accessible are the provisions to the user and is there easy access to other key services?
- Is the provision for homeless people cost-effective and sustainable?
- Is the current provision sufficient to meet the likely increase in the number of homeless people as a result of the current recession and welfare reform?
- What is the partners' role in providing for homeless people?
- Is consideration given to the location of the provision, i.e. suitability of hostels on the basis of services available?
- Is consideration given to the backgrounds of individuals staying there?
- What is the introduction process?
- Does the provision respond to local homelessness?

Recommendations by the Scrutiny Members to Councillor Ioan Thomas, Cabinet Member for Housing.

The Investigation has not been completed as the work did not commence until January 2015. Therefore, no recommendations were submitted to the Cabinet Member during 2014/15.

Anticipated Impact

As the recommendations have not yet been submitted to the Cabinet Member, the anticipated impact of the Investigation will be included in the report for 2015/16.

2. Work of the Committee

Included below are the matters that have been discussed at the five committee meetings held during 2014/15.

CP1. The Impact of 106 Agreements on the Viability of Communities

Scrutiny undertaken

Accept and challenge a report by the Cabinet Member for Planning at the time, Councillor John Wyn Williams, following concerns that there were obstacles with using the 106 agreements as a method of facilitating local people's access to housing in our communities.

It was noted that the possibilities in this field were under review in light of the emergence of the new Planning Bill.

Recommendations

There were no specific recommendations by the Scrutiny Members to Councillor John Wyn Williams, Cabinet Member for Planning, at the time.

Anticipated Impact

The problem remains and the Scrutiny Committee is likely to revisit the field during 2015/16 as the concerns continue.

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CP2. Food Safety Act – Report by the Food Standards Agency
<p><u>Scrutiny undertaken</u></p> <p>On two occasions, the Scrutiny Committee considered the critical report submitted by the Food Standards Agency about aspects of the Council’s procedures that did not comply with the requirements of the Food Safety Act.</p> <p>The committee established very soon that the weaknesses were some that affected the Council’s internal arrangements and not individual businesses. However, disappointment was expressed with the report and a prompt response was sought by inviting an officer from the Food Standards Agency to attend the committee to provide advice on the extent to which the Service’s Action Plan addressed the identified weaknesses.</p> <p>A report was received on the Action Plan and the officer from the Food Standards Agency was challenged on how adequate the Council's response was.</p>
<p><u>Recommendations</u></p> <p>The Committee was satisfied with the progress up to October 2014, and requested a further report in 2015/16 in order for the committee to check whether the action had brought the service back to where it should be.</p>
<p><u>Anticipated Impact</u></p> <p>Assurance is awaited in 2015/16 that the weaknesses identified by the report have all been adequately addressed.</p>

CP3. Arfon Area Bus Services
<p><u>Scrutiny undertaken</u></p> <p>A report was received by the Cabinet Member for the Environment at the time, Councillor Gareth Roberts, following the decision of a local bus operator to cease trading and the steps that the Integrated Transport Unit had to take to reduce the impact on the residents of Gwynedd.</p> <p>The committee received assurance that everything had been done to protect services, although this did incur some costs in the short-term.</p>
<p><u>Recommendations</u></p> <p>There were no recommendations; however the Committee congratulated the Regulatory Department and the Integrated Transport Unit in particular for their work and efforts to recover from a difficult situation by reducing the impact on Gwynedd residents.</p>
<p><u>Anticipated Impact</u></p>

Safeguard bus services in the Arfon area despite a significant loss of providers in the field.

CP4. The Future of Public Transport

Scrutiny undertaken

A presentation was given by the Cabinet Member and the Head of Regulatory Department outlining the draft matrix in order to prioritise seeking to ensure fairness when considering the future of public transport services in light of financial pressures on those services.

A discussion ensued on the elements within the matrix and the weighting between them.

Recommendations

The Scrutiny Committee accepted the report emphasising the following matters:

- i. To accept the process of considering the picture, purpose and reasoning when developing and implementing the matrix.
- ii. That local Councillors should hold local discussion groups with communities to inform local people of the changes and to prioritise the community's transport requirements.

Anticipated Impact

Develop a prioritisation matrix which is coherent and reasonable while facing difficult decisions about the future of some services.

CP5. Bangor Pride

Scrutiny undertaken

A progress report was given by the Cabinet Member for the Environment at the time, Councillor Gareth Roberts, on implementing the recommendations of the Bangor Pride Scrutiny Investigation, recognising that some of the recommendations had not been implemented.

Recommendations

To request a progress report and to allow time to hold discussions with the community and provide an opportunity for the situation to mature.

Anticipated Impact

Progress on particular development in the Bangor area and clarity regarding to what degree such arrangements can be extended to other areas across the county.

CP6. Cartrefi Cymunedol Gwynedd Annual Report

Scrutiny undertaken

The Annual Report of the Chief Executive of Cartrefi Cymunedol Gwynedd (CCG) was considered and attention was given to the following factors:-

- The need to improve CCG information arrangements regarding completed works, and specifically, that the enquiry cycle needs to be improved and closed fully when implementing the Elected Member Protocol.
- The fact that the number of stock which complied with the Welsh Housing Quality Standards per element on 31 March, 2014 was very praiseworthy.
- The arrangements for monitoring the recruitment and employment of local sub-contractors
- Potential slowness in disposing of empty houses which, over time, has an impact on neighbouring houses and the community.
- The importance of conveying any concern members might have about the work of CCG to the quarterly meetings with Council representatives in order to seek an early solution

Attention was also drawn to the work of the Housing Options Team which reported that of the individuals that had been homed, 98% had a local connection with Gwynedd and 74% had a connection with the community (ward) where they were receiving a property with an additional 12% having a connection with an adjacent community/ward.

Recommendations

RESOLVED to accept the report emphasising the following matters:

- a) the importance of gathering information about local need that will then lead to housing development plans to address the need (it was agreed to request information about this for the next preparatory meeting).
- b) the arrangements of all housing associations should be improved to advertise empty properties locally.
- c) to request comparative information from other counties on the number of allocations to local people in order to allay or confirm the concerns of members regarding the number of people from outside areas receiving properties under the points system.

Anticipated Impact

Arrangements to ensure effective managements of the CCG housing stock in the interests of local people.

CP7. Shoreline Protection Scheme (West Wales)

Scrutiny undertaken

A presentation was given by Mr Greg Guthrie from Royal Haskoning company, the author of the West Wales Shoreline Plan which assessed the impact on the county's communities should the sea level be raised by 50 – 150m due to climate change.

The Council's arrangements to respond to the report and, specifically the engagement work and discussions that have taken place with communities that are under threat, was challenged.

Recommendations

The following points were noted for the attention of the Cabinet Member and Welsh Government:-

- That a plan needs to be in place and that Gwynedd Council's response to the plan has been successful and that including communities in any discussions is key.
- It should be praised that initial discussions have been held, though it is necessary to ensure that this continues.
- That the national discussions are slow and cause difficulties for the community. As a result, a message should be sent to the minister, highlighting concerns by pressing for a quick response and clarity.

Anticipated Impact

Improvements to the Council's arrangements to assist communities to prepare for possible threats as a result of climate change and rising sea levels.

CP8. Monitoring and Enforcement of Caravan Sites

Scrutiny undertaken

A report was received from the Cabinet Member and Head of Regulatory Department on the service arrangements for monitoring and enforcement on caravan sites.

Recommendations

The Scrutiny Committee accepted the report as one that provided an honest picture of the situation and accepted the work on the baseline by emphasising the following matters:

- i) Members should be encouraged to bring key information to the department's attention.
- ii) Collaborate with other departments to improve the level of information.
- iii) Keep an eye on the possibility of raising the income to fund the service in future if the legislation permits it.
- iv) For the importance of the work, accept that proactive elements are optional, and therefore is an option that will need to be considered for achieving savings.

Anticipated Impact

Consistent standard of service for caravan monitoring and enforcement across the county.

CP9. The Parking System in Gwynedd

Scrutiny undertaken

A presentation was given by the Cabinet Member for the Environment on the options under consideration for new plans for the county's parking system.

Recommendations

It was recommended to the Cabinet Member that he should amend the proposals to address the following points:-

- There is a need to encourage active collaboration with local communities on the management of car parks.
- The number of free car parks to be scrutinised locally after discussing the matter with local members.
- Although welcoming the idea of charging for parking in ‘blue badge spaces’, there is a need to ensure that any income derived is used to improve the facilities for users.
- The Cabinet should, when considering the proposals formally, receive comparative information especially from neighbouring councils.

Anticipated Impact

Assisting in establishing a sustainable parking system for the future.

CP10. Briwet Bridge

Scrutiny undertaken

Though the matter was not on the Committee’s work programme for the year, the matter was called in to the committee as a result of local concerns about the lack of speed in completing work on the new bridge and the impact of that delay on the economic and social life of the communities.

Recommendations

The Scrutiny Committee expressed some concerns (such as the delay with the scheme and its impact on the local community, who would shoulder the additional costs as a result of the delay and weaknesses in communication arrangements) which were then shared with the Audit Committee, which undertook specific work on the scheme and drew particular attention to the work of risk management within the scheme and the timescale of the scheme.

Anticipated Impact

It was expected that an improvement would be seen in the communication arrangements for the scheme as well as assurances of fairness in the arrangements for shouldering any additional costs.

CP11. Waste Strategy

Scrutiny undertaken

The Scrutiny Committee called in the Cabinet’s decision to move to three-weekly residual waste collection arrangements as part of the Council’s waste and recycling strategy, before it was implemented. This resulted in a short delay before introducing the procedure.

Having scrutinised it once (in May 2014) the matter was called back for further scrutiny after the procedure had been trialled (see below).

Recommendations

After delaying the implementation of the Cabinet’s decision in May 2014, the Scrutiny

Committee decided to scrutinise the effect of introducing the changes in the Dwyfor area prior to extending the arrangements to the remainder of the county.

Having received a report and a detailed presentation on the implementation of the arrangements in Dwyfor, in February 2015, the committee resolved:-

- a. To express the Committee's congratulations to the Department and the people of Dwyfor on the success that has been seen through introducing the new arrangements.
- b. To welcome the fields that the Department intended to improve - introduce a recycling cart sooner, if possible, adapt the Christmas and Boxing Day arrangements and highlight messages of thanks to the people of Dwyfor.
- c. To suggest further improvements through training the workforce to improve tidiness; encourage moving on to develop recycling in bins on the street as well as commercial waste; eager to see creative ideas being developed for situations in flats, community / rural points and the summer holidays.
- ch. To ask the Cabinet Member to write to the Welsh Government regarding the Committee's viewpoint on packaging.
- d. To invite the Cabinet Member back to report on implementing changes to residual waste collection in Meirionnydd and to report on whether the improvements and savings have been realised.

Anticipated Impact

Further improvement in the Council's waste collection arrangements, improvement in recycling rates and a reduction in costs whilst addressing the practical concerns which arise in communities having implemented the new collection arrangements.

CP12. Annual Update of the Community Safety Partnership (Crime and Disorder Committee)

Scrutiny undertaken

The report of the Community Safety Delivery Manager on the work of the Gwynedd and Anglesey Community Safety Partnership in accordance with sections 19 and 20 of the Criminal Justice and Police Act 2006 was received.

The following were addressed specifically:

- The increase seen in sex offences.
- Some possible weaknesses in the reporting arrangements:-
 - Need to report on criminal damage and arson offences as two separate matters.
 - The fact that cyber-crime is currently reported under "harassment without violence".
- The importance of collaborating with local communities on responding to antisocial behaviour.

Recommendations

There were no recommendations by Scrutiny Members.

Anticipated Impact

A further increase in scrutiny Members' awareness of the work and purpose of the Gwynedd and

Anglesey Community Safety Partnership.

CP13. Llyn Bach Car Park, Porthmadog

Scrutiny undertaken

The Committee considered a request by a Local Member, which was supported by three members of the Committee to call-in a decision made by the Cabinet Member (Regulatory), Councillor Dafydd Meurig, to dispose of the Llyn Bach Car Park, Porthmadog to the Ffestiniog Railway Company.

Recommendations

The Scrutiny Committee resolved to acknowledge the concerns of the local members and to request that the Cabinet Member delays implementation for the time being, so that the local member and the officers have an opportunity to engage with the community and consider any other options for the development.

Anticipated Impact

Better engagement with the community on a decision to dispose of a specific asset.

CP14. Update on the Leisure Review

Scrutiny undertaken

The Committee considered a report by the Cabinet Member for Leisure providing an update on the situation in terms of the Leisure Review, which is now considered as part of a £1.05m package of efficiency savings the Service must face.

Specifically, attention was given to the need to find suitable solutions for local communities (rather than one common model across the county) and to seek a situation where the retrieval rates of individual centres could improve.

Recommendations

No specific recommendations for the Cabinet Member, but look forward to collaborating locally with the individual Leisure Centres' business plans

Anticipated Impact

Changes to leisure arrangements that secure local solutions which offer a more sustainable service in future.