

MEETING	AUDIT COMMITTEE
DATE	21 JANUARY 2016
TITLE	THE COUNCIL'S SCRUTINY ARRANGEMENTS
AUTHOR	Arwel E Jones (Senior Manager – Democracy and Delivery)
PURPOSE OF THE REPORT	To hold a discussion on a work programme in response to a Wales Audit Office report

1. I reported to the Audit Committee on 1st December, 2015, that we had received a report from the Wales Audit Office (WAO) reviewing the effectiveness of scrutiny in Gwynedd. As part of that work, they suggested three main areas that need to be addressed in order to improve scrutiny in Gwynedd:-
 - Dealing with the perceived disengagement between the Cabinet and the scrutiny committees. by looking, amongst other things, at more “pre-decision scrutiny” of Cabinet business
 - Improving the clarity of scrutiny recommendations so that what happens as a result of scrutiny work can be more clearly identified
 - Improving the quality of questioning at scrutiny committees to provide greater focus and quality for the scrutiny

2. We have now received the final version of the report, a copy of which is attached as Appendix 1. It includes 9 recommendations that require a response. In Appendix 2 to this report, the recommendations are noted together with some observations and considerations for the committee to look at in preparing an action plan in response to those recommendations.

3. The committee’s initial response to those considerations are sought together with guidance on the suitability of the draft action points in the attached document.