



ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SCRUTINY COMMITTEES

2017- 2018

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What is scrutiny?

Scrutiny is a key component of the Council's political structure. Many of the Council's important decisions are taken by Cabinet, a group of eight councillors to whom the County Council has given its powers to take decisions relating to policies and procedures on its behalf.

The term 'scrutiny' derives from the Latin word 'scrutinium/scrutari' which means 'to search'. In the context of local government Scrutiny's role is to research and examine policies and decisions to assess whether they could be improved or strengthened to deliver better services for residents and visitors to Denbighshire. Scrutiny is often referred to as the Council's 'critical friend', its purpose is to provide constructive criticism in order to continually seek improvements to services, secure better decisions and realise better outcomes.

Scrutiny committees cannot take decisions, but they can influence policies, review decisions taken by Cabinet and Officers, make recommendations, and examine a range of topics that affect residents, local businesses and visitors to the county.

Scrutiny in Action

Scrutiny should at all times work in an impartial way. It should not be influenced by party politics, its focus should be on improving the lives of residents and on securing better outcomes for the county area.

Whilst Scrutiny Committees have an active role to play in developing policies and reviewing performance, they also have the responsibility of holding the Cabinet and other decision makers to account on the decisions they make.

If a Scrutiny Committee believes that an issue should be looked at in more depth before a decision is implemented, it can request a review under the "Call-In" procedure which will allow Scrutiny Committees to formulate alternative proposals.

How does scrutiny work in Denbighshire?

Scrutiny acts as a 'critical friend' to the Council's leadership, driving improvements not only to services delivered by the Council itself, but to services delivered in partnership with other public services in the area by enabling the concerns of the public to be heard.

The Council's scrutiny work is undertaken by three thematic, cross-cutting scrutiny Committees, meeting approximately every 7 weeks and comprising of 11 members from all political parties/groups on the Council. The three committees in Denbighshire are:

- 🌐 Communities Scrutiny Committee
- 🌐 Partnerships Scrutiny Committee
- 🌐 Performance Scrutiny Committee

When examining education matters representatives appointed by the Church in Wales and the Catholic Church, along with representatives elected by parent governors, also serve on the committees. When dealing with education matters these representatives have full voting rights.

Scrutiny Chairs and Vice-Chairs Group

The Chairs and Vice-Chairs of the three scrutiny committees serve on the Council's Scrutiny Chairs and Vice-Chairs Group along with the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Corporate Governance Committee (the Council's Audit Committee) and the Chair of the Democratic Services Committee. This Group acts as a co-ordinating group for the committees' work. Requests for items to be considered by a scrutiny committee are examined by this Group to determine whether they meet the criteria for Scrutiny, or whether they would benefit from being considered by another forum or group. The flowchart on page 29 of this report illustrates this process whilst the 'Interface Chart' on page 30 demonstrates how Scrutiny fits in and interacts with other committees, groups and forums. The Scrutiny Chairs and Vice-Chairs Group also ensures that committees' work programmes are balanced and that subjects are not duplicated. It also has a role to play in supporting and strengthening the Council's scrutiny function through the identification of best practice and helping to implement any necessary changes to scrutiny practices.



New Council

In May 2017 local authority elections were held across Wales. Denbighshire, similar to the majority of local councils, welcomed a number of new councillors to its ranks.

As the political make-up of the Council changed so did each political group's proportion of members on the scrutiny committees.

In previous years Scrutiny in Denbighshire had focussed its efforts on supporting the work to deliver the Council's Corporate Plan. With the formation of a new Council work began in earnest to develop new corporate priorities and a new Corporate Plan for the period 2017 to 2022, the term of the new Council. As part of the work to ensure that the priorities and plan are delivered during the Council's term of office measures have been developed to gauge progress with its delivery. Scrutiny has been consulted on the proposed performance monitoring framework for the Plan to ensure that it helps support the Plan's delivery by 2022. From now on, throughout the Council's term of office, Scrutiny will regularly monitor the Plan's delivery.

Scrutiny has, and will during the new Council term continue to examine matters which are considered to be important or urgent. As mentioned earlier, to ensure that matters of importance are brought to scrutiny's attention a procedure is used by the Scrutiny Chairs and Vice-Chairs Group to filter requests received. The same procedure is used regardless of who submitted the request, a councillor, an officer or a member of the public. This procedure enables scrutiny to consider the most important ones and to refer any non-urgent or more local ones to other groups or individuals to address. How requests are made and dealt with is explained at the end of the report (see pages 25 to 30).

As in previous years, during 2017-18 the Council's three scrutiny committees have dealt with a mixture of pre-decision and post-decision scrutiny as well a wide range of other business, including performance monitoring, and policy development. It has also participated in consultation exercises undertaken by other organisations.

Information on the work undertaken by each committee can be found under the section on the individual committees later in this report.



A time of establishing and learning

Following the May 2017 local authority elections, Denbighshire like other local authorities saw a number of experienced councillors re-elected, but also welcomed a

number of new councillors who were elected for the first time. Consequently, the first year of a new Council's term of office is very much a year of establishing and learning. A Council Leader has to be elected and then a Cabinet is appointed before all other committees, including Scrutiny Committees, can be established. To support councillors in their roles on the different committees a number of different types of training and developments events were held.

To enable councillors and co-opted members to understand Scrutiny's role and purpose in the Council's governance arrangements an 'Introduction to Scrutiny' event was held for all councillors at the start of the Council's new term. This was followed during the course of the year with specific skills training sessions on 'Scrutiny Chairing' and 'Effective Scrutiny'. The latter event was aimed at supporting scrutiny members to work effectively as a team for the purpose of improving outcomes for residents. Certain aspects of the Council's work are extremely complex and may be difficult for the lay person to understand. One such area is educational performance, particularly the statistical information relating to educational attainment. Due to the complexities involved with understanding school performance information a training session was held on 'School Performance Data', how to interpret it and use it effectively when challenging performance with a view to raising standards and consequently improving outcomes for pupils.

Apart from the training required to help both new and returning councillors to understand their roles, the first year of a new Council is also one where new plans and strategies are developed and approved, plans such as the Council's Corporate Plan and the Public Services Board's (PSB) Well-being Plan. Consequently, Scrutiny's role in relation to supporting and monitoring their delivery cannot start in earnest until these plans have been approved. Therefore the monitoring of their delivery will commence during 2018-19. This year Scrutiny has been involved in the early stages of both Plans' development, as a statutory consultee on the PSB's Well-being Plan and in examining the way success in delivering the Corporate Plan will be measured.

County Council and Planning Committee meetings in Denbighshire have been webcast (broadcast on the Council's website) for some time. Since the start of the new Council Cabinet meetings have also been webcast on a regular basis. On 22nd March 2018 the Council webcast a scrutiny committee meeting for the first time, when the proceedings of Communities Scrutiny Committee's meeting were broadcast. Whilst there is no intention at present to broadcast all scrutiny committee meetings individual meetings may be webcast. The Scrutiny Chairs and Vice-Chairs Group will decide which meetings will be webcast.



Additional Work

Whilst Scrutiny members attend formal committee meetings and examine topics or areas in detail as a team, they also undertake scrutiny work outside of formal committee meetings, some of this work is undertaken on an individual basis in their role as their Committee's representative on various Council boards or groups. Each of the three committees have nominated representatives to serve on a variety of internal 'groups'. On these groups representatives are tasked with working with officers to discharge corporate functions and to try and continually improve services despite government funding cuts. Through these groups, i.e. the Strategic Investment Group (SIG), the School Standards Monitoring Group (SSMG) scrutiny members are able to shape, influence, develop and monitor policy through alternative means, complementing the work undertaken by the committees at their regular meetings.

In addition to the above a representative from each scrutiny committee serves on the Council's Service Performance Challenge Groups (where services' performance and priorities are reviewed). If there are concerns regarding the performance of a specific service the Chair of Performance Scrutiny Committee or the committee's performance lead may meet with the relevant Head of Service and appropriate officers to examine matters in closer detail. If concerns still persist the matter can then be referred to the scrutiny committee for detailed examination by the entire committee.

Members who serve on these various groups regularly report back to their Committee on their discussions, findings and conclusions.

During the previous Council's term of office a Task and Finish Group was established to explore potential solutions for the future delivery of adult social care services which meet the requirements of the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014. This Act places and emphasis on improving outcomes for residents whilst supporting their independence. The Group was re-established during the latter part of 2017/18 in order to continue the work and deliver the vision.

Improving Outcomes for Residents:

The aim of scrutiny is to improve outcomes for residents. In 2014 the Auditor General for Wales published a national report, 'Good Scrutiny? Good Question!'¹ That report concluded that whilst local authorities were enthusiastic to learn and improve their approach to scrutiny, they were struggling to demonstrate the impact of scrutiny. It concluded that when particularly tough decisions need to be taken, the importance of effective scrutiny should not be underestimated. As a result of this study a national set of 'Outcomes and Characteristics for Effective Scrutiny' were agreed. These

¹ The following link will take you to the Auditor General for Wales' report 'Good Scrutiny? Good Question' (2014): https://www.wao.gov.uk/system/files/publications/WAO_Scrutiny_Report_English_2014.pdf

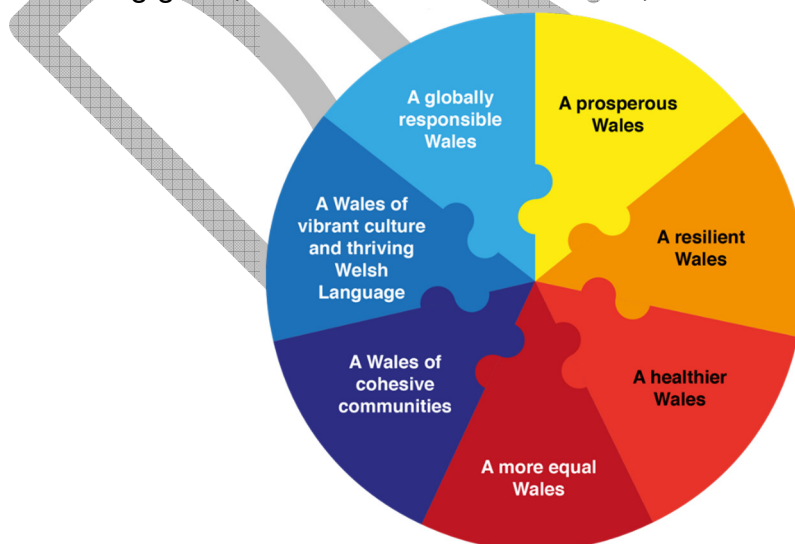
characteristics, which are divided into three specific categories, are essential components of effective scrutiny. They are:

- Better outcomes
- Better decisions
- Better engagement

During late 2017 and early 2018 the Auditor General undertook a further national review of scrutiny across Wales. The purpose of this review, called 'Fit for the Future', was to assess how Scrutiny responded to the recommendations in the 2014 report and how well placed it is to respond to future challenges - including the pressures on public finances and the increased expectations for councils and other public authorities to work together on a regional basis.

This review also explored Scrutiny's effectiveness in adapting to the requirements of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015, including how it fulfills its duties with respect of scrutinising the new Public Services Boards. The introduction of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 is one of biggest changes in legislation which has impacted on scrutiny's work in recent years. Its aim is to improve the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales by requiring all public bodies (which includes local authorities) to think more long-term, work better with people and communities and each other, look to prevent problems and take a more joined-up approach when making decisions. The aim is to help create a Wales that we all want to live in, now and in the future. The Act puts in place seven well-being goals, all of which are inter-linked and dependent on each other.

The Well-being goals, and the links between them, are illustrated below.



More information about them and the Act can be found on the 'Future Generations Commissioner for Wales' website by following the link below:

<https://futuregenerations.wales/>

Scrutiny routinely as part of its work is expected to robustly challenge the conclusions of Well-being Impact Assessments presented to them in relation to proposals, policies, service changes etc.

The findings of the latest Wales Audit Office/Auditor General review are yet to be published. Following the report's publication the Scrutiny Chairs and Vice-Chairs Group will consider the conclusions and any recommendations that are made.

As part its work to further improve scrutiny in the Council the Scrutiny Chairs and Vice-Chairs Group has recently undertaken an evaluation of the effectiveness of the Council's scrutiny function. This evaluation is based on the 'Outcomes and Characteristics for Effective Scrutiny' referred to earlier.

At the end of the new Council's first year of office the main conclusions drawn from the annual evaluation exercise were that Scrutiny:

- had a clear and valued role in the Council's improvement and governance arrangements (94% of respondents stated this);
- was generally councillor-led (76% of respondents thought that this was the case);
- received effective support from the Corporate Management Team (91% of respondents were of this opinion); and
- had the dedicated officer support it requires to undertake effective independent research on its behalf (94% of respondents were of this view);

Amongst the areas identified for improvement were:

- the need to provide training on scrutiny specific skills on a regular basis;
- communication with the public and encouraging residents to engage with scrutiny on matters of concern or interest;
- to explore the potential of webcasting more scrutiny committee meetings; and
- the need for Scrutiny to communicate the outcomes of its work effectively and regularly with councillors who are not members of a scrutiny committee, officers and the public.

The Scrutiny Chairs and Vice-Chairs Group, as part of its work, will devise solutions to address the above areas and to progress any recommendations made by the Wales Audit Office. It will incorporate them into its programme of work to continually strengthen scrutiny in Denbighshire for the benefit of residents.

External Organisations

With an increased expectation from Welsh Government (WG) for public services to be delivered either in partnership with external organisations or commissioned from external providers, scrutiny has in recent years adapted its work to be more externally focussed. During the past year a number of external organisations have been invited to attend scrutiny meetings to discuss progress with joint initiatives, or areas of concern for the Council or residents.

Amongst the external organisations who participated in the scrutiny process during 2017-18 were the Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board (BCUHB) and GwE (the regional school improvement service). Whilst Scrutiny does not have powers to compel external organisations to attend committee meetings to discuss matters of concern, most organisations accept an invitation to attend scrutiny to explain their plans or the rationale behind their decisions.

To date the Welsh Government, GwE, Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board and the Welsh Ambulance Services Trust (WAST) have accepted invitations to attend scrutiny meetings during the forthcoming year, whilst plans are afoot to extend invitations to Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water and Natural Resources Wales (NRW) to a meeting later in the year.

Looking forward

From April 2018 onwards the majority of areas in Denbighshire is subject to the new **Universal Credit** welfare benefit. Although the Council has been planning for the introduction of this new benefit for some time the actual impact of its introduction on residents and on Council services is yet unknown. As a result Scrutiny has decided to monitor the impact of its introduction with a view to identifying problems or pressures as early as possible during the introductory phase. This work will start during May 2018 when representatives from various organisations, such as Citizens Advice Denbighshire (CAD), Department for Work and Pensions (DWP), Civica and various Council services will attend a meeting of Communities Scrutiny Committee to examine whether additional steps need to be taken to support residents and services to manage the impact of the benefit's introduction.

As mentioned earlier the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 requires public bodies within the Council's geographic area to work together effectively for the purpose of improving the well-being of residents and the area in general. To facilitate this to happen legislation stipulated that a Public Services Board (PSB) for the area had to be established. As a number of the partner organisations on the PSB work across both Conwy and Denbighshire county areas, and had worked together over a number of years on the former joint Conwy and Denbighshire Local Services Board (LSB), it was decided that a joint Conwy and Denbighshire PSB would be established to take over from the LSB.

In addition to requiring the establishment of PSBs the Act also requires local authorities to designate a specific scrutiny committee to scrutinise the work of the PSB for its area, and to fulfil certain duties laid out in the legislation. In Denbighshire Partnerships Scrutiny Committee is the designated scrutiny committee. However, now that the PSB is a statutory board which has certain duties to deliver across both Conwy and Denbighshire consideration is being given by both councils to the merits of establishing a joint scrutiny committee, comprising of elected councillors from both councils, for the purpose of scrutinising the PSB. Proposals in relation to this are currently being developed and both councils hope to conclude the work during the forthcoming year.

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The Scrutiny Committees

As 2017-18 was a year when the Council's vision and strategy for its term of office was being developed the Authority's three scrutiny committees focussed their attention on a number of thematic areas, and on monitoring the delivery of core services and business. A summary of the areas examined by each committee can be found on the following pages.

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Communities Scrutiny Committee



Cllr. Huw Williams (**Chair**)



Cllr. Graham Timms (**Vice-Chair**)



Cllr. Brian Blakeley



Cllr. Meirick Lloyd Davies



Cllr. Rachel Flynn



Cllr. Tina Jones



Cllr. Merfyn Parry



Cllr. Anton Sampson



Cllr. Glenn Swingler



Cllr. Andrew Thomas



Cllr. Cheryl Williams

Communities Scrutiny Committee has during the course of the year focussed its attention on **car parks, tourism** and **matters relating to schools**.

Car parks: the Committee considered the possibility of permitting disabled blue badge holders to park free of charge in the county's car parks. However, it was recommended instead to afford blue badge holders an additional one hour parking time on top of the period purchased on their parking ticket, regardless of whether they parked in a designated disabled bay or not in Council operated car parks. It was felt that permitting additional time would help blue badge holders to undertake all their business within a reasonable timeframe.

Having accessible, clearly sign-posted and well-maintained car parks is crucial if the county's towns and local businesses are to thrive. The Council has undertaken a thorough review of car parks across the county and drawn up a strategy for future investment in its car parks. Scrutiny has during the year examined this strategy and will continue to monitor its delivery during the forthcoming year to ensure that it is delivered and benefits residents, businesses and visitors.

Tourism: is a mainstay of the local economy with thousands of tourists visiting all parts of the county all year round. Permission has recently been granted for 'brown tourist signs' for the Vale of Clwyd to be erected on the grass verges of the A55. Scrutiny has been consulted on the proposed designs for these signs. Whilst scrutiny welcomed the proposal to erect these signs it also felt that they should be supplemented by signs on the county's own highway network to direct tourists to places of interest and to local businesses the length and breadth of the county. As a result further work is being done to draw up a tourist signage strategy for Denbighshire. It is hoped that this work, in addition to the installation of brown tourist information signs on the A55 and the Council's investment in its car parks which are a gateway to tourists to the county, will support and boost the local economy. The Committee also examined the work of the Tourism Team in promoting and marketing the county as a tourist and events location and how the Team's work complements the Council's overall economic development strategy for the county.



Schools: during the term of the previous Council a comprehensive review of primary education in a number of areas within the county was undertaken, the largest and most complex review centred on the Ruthin area. The purpose of the review was to address the number of surplus school places in the area. This review resulted in a number of schools being recommended for closure, with schools or school facilities being built funded jointly by the Council and by Welsh Government through its 21st Century Schools programme. A number of the decisions to close or reorganise primary schools in the area attracted local opposition and resulted in adverse media coverage for the Council. Communities Scrutiny Committee during the year examined the impact of the decisions to close schools and the opening of new state of the art facilities on the communities concerned.

As the programme of building new schools and relocating pupils is still continuing the Committee has agreed to continue with its examination of the impact for the next couple of years. A consequence of the school re-organisation programme was that a number of former school buildings became redundant and surplus to requirements. As the Committee had concerns that these unused building could be at risk of vandalism etc. it examined the Council's plans for managing and dealing with redundant school sites. It wanted assurances that every effort was being made to dispose of them at the earliest opportunity whilst having regard to the wishes of the local community. Another aspect affecting schools which the Committee was consulted on during the year was the Council's draft Learner Transport Policy. Stemming from the discussion on that policy the viability of developing a procedure to enable primary schools to apply to change the secondary school cluster to which they belonged was examined.



Ysgol Glan Cwyd



Ruthin's new school at Glasdir

In addition to the above thematic areas the Committee also examined a corporate procedure for dealing with trees across the county and the progress made in implementing an action plan to manage the nuisance caused by seagulls.



It also considered the findings of a statutory report, required under Section 19 of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010, on the July 2017 floods in the north of the county. As a result of considering this report representatives from Natural Resources Wales (NRW) and Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water will be invited to attend a meeting of the Committee during 2018-19 to discuss water management and flood alleviation matters.

More information about the Committee and its work can be found by following the link below:

<https://moderngov.denbighshire.gov.uk/mgCommitteeDetails.aspx?ID=271&LLL=0>

Partnerships Scrutiny Committee



Cllr. Jeanette Chamberlain-Jones (**Chair**)



Cllr. Emrys Wynne (**Vice-Chair**)



Cllr. Joan Butterfield



Cllr. Gareth Lloyd Davies



Cllr. Hugh Irving



Cllr. Pat Jones



Cllr. Christine Marston



Cllr. Melvyn Mile



Cllr. Andrew Thomas



Cllr. Rhys Thomas



Cllr. David Williams

During 2017-18 **Partnerships Scrutiny Committee** has continued to monitor the effectiveness of a number of **partnership arrangements** with which the Council is involved as well as scrutinising various **health and social care** projects and initiatives. In addition to the above the Committee has also fulfilled its duties as the Council's designated Crime and Disorder scrutiny committee and as the designated committee to scrutinise the Public Services Board (PSB).

Partnership arrangements: following the Council's decision a few years ago to withdraw from delivering a CCTV service in towns in the north of the county a partnership was established between the county council, town councils and North Wales Police to deliver a CCTV service. The partnership's effectiveness in delivering the service were examined by the Committee in June 2017 as were proposals to enter into an agreement with Cheshire West and Chester Council to deliver the service in future. Further consideration of the effectiveness of the new partnership arrangements with Cheshire West and Chester will be the focus of the Committee's work during the summer of 2018. As the Council's statutory crime and disorder scrutiny committee Partnerships has examined the Conwy and Denbighshire Community Safety Partnership's (CSP) delivery of its priorities for 2016-17. It also examined its priorities and action plan for 2017-18. With the establishment of the Conwy and Denbighshire Public Services Board (PSB) came the responsibility for the Committee to be the Council's designated PSB Scrutiny Committee. In undertaking this role during the year the Committee was consulted, and provided observations and recommendations, on the Board's draft Well-being Plan 2018 – 22. From now on it will examine the Board's progress in delivering the Well-being Plan.



Health and social care: Health and social care matters generally entail a lot of partnership working between the Council, Health Board, voluntary sector and private business. Consequently health and social care matters feature regularly on the committee's business agenda. During the course of the year the Committee has examined the Director of Social Services' Annual report for 2016 -17 and commented on the priority areas identified for the Service for 2017 – 18. Similarly it has been consulted, and provided observations, on the Carers Strategy 2016 – 19, the Homelessness Strategy and Prevention Plan, proposals to introduce Support Budgets for People Eligible for a Care and Support Plan, and examined the Council's performance in relation to Adult Safeguarding.

In addition the Committee has examined the progress made in developing community arrangements to support patients' timely discharge from hospital and the progress made in developing pooled budgets for certain health and social care services. It has also monitored the progress and performance of the Single Point of Access (SPoA) service, which is the residents' initial port of call to access health and social care support services. Committee members have also met with representatives from the Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board (BCUHB) to seek assurances regarding the development of the new community hospital and associated facilities for North Denbighshire in Rhyl, the temporary closure of beds on fire risk grounds at Denbigh Infirmary and their on-going commitment to the Healthy Prestatyn initiative. During the forthcoming year Members will consider the independent inquiry reports on the Tawelfan Ward at Ysbyty Glan Clwyd and any implications to the Council following the publication of the their findings.



Site of North Denbighshire community hospital development

To find out more information about the Committee and its work follow the link below:

<https://moderngov.denbighshire.gov.uk/mgCommitteeDetails.aspx?ID=268&LLL=0>

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Performance Scrutiny Committee



Cllr. Huw Ll Jones (**Chair**)



Cllr. Hugh Irving (**Vice-Chair**)



Cllr. Ellie Chard



Cllr. Ann Davies



Cllr. Martyn Holland



Cllr. Geraint Lloyd-Williams



Cllr. Bob Murray



Cllr. Arwel Roberts



Cllr. Peter Scott



Cllr. David Williams



Cllr. Eryl Williams

Performance Scrutiny Committee has specific responsibilities relating to monitoring the **corporate aspects** of the Council's work as well as the **performance** of specific services in delivering their services and **improving the lives of residents**

Corporate responsibilities: in fulfilling its corporate role the Committee has examined the new framework that will be used to measure the Council's performance in delivering its new Corporate Plan for 2017 – 22. From now on the Committee will regularly use the framework to monitor the Council's progress and success in delivering the Plan. With a view to identifying service shortfalls and weaknesses in service delivery the Committee has regularly examined the Council's performance in dealing with complaints in line with its 'Your Voice' Corporate Complaints Procedure and also the Council's customer feedback procedure. The Council, similar to other organisations of all sizes, faces a variety of risks to its business delivery on a daily basis. Performance Scrutiny Committee on a twice yearly basis considers the risks identified in the Council's Corporate Risk Register along with the measures taken to mitigate against their potential impact. The Council's draft Equality Plan was also examined by the Committee during the year. At Cabinet's request the Committee examined aspects of a procurement exercise undertaken to appoint an agency to supply the Council with temporary staff. Cabinet wanted assurances that the exercise had been effectively managed and that the agency put forward to Cabinet for approval would realise value for money for the Council.

Performance: educational attainment is key if the Council is to realise its ambition of developing a strong sustainable economy where young people want to work and flourish. As in previous years the Committee has continued to examine in detail the teacher assessment and external examination results as well as the support provided to pupils and schools by the Council and the regional school improvement service GwE. The Committee also examined the Council's Behaviour Management Policy and its application across the county's schools in light of the number of short term exclusions from the county's schools as it wanted assurances that pupils were supported to achieve their potential and had access to the right skills to see them achieve their potential.



Library services are highly regarded and valued by residents. Libraries across the county have in recent years extended the types of services available and delivered within library buildings and on-line, with Wi-Fi services now available at all county libraries. During the year the Committee has examined the Library Service's performance in delivering services against the all-Wales standards. It has also monitored the Service's progress in transforming libraries into community hubs whilst retaining the traditional element of the service. It will continue to monitor this work during the forthcoming year.



St Asaph Library

Improving the lives of residents: a well maintained highways network impacts on the well-being of residents and the local economy. Proposals for developing a strategy for maintenance and investment in the county's highways network were considered and supported by the Committee. The Committee acknowledged the difficulty faced by the Council in attempting to maintain the county's roads with diminishing financial resources from central government. On this basis it has invited representatives from the Welsh Government to meet with the Committee during the summer of 2018 to discuss the matter.

During the term of the previous Council the Committee considered the findings of a task and finish group established to devise effective solutions for delivering adult social care in the county, as the Welsh Government expects local authorities from now on to focus the delivery and commissioning of services on improving well-being, promoting independence, increasing resilience whilst reducing social isolation. This work is continuing and Performance Scrutiny Committee in the spring of 2018 formulated recommendations to Cabinet, on the basis of the re-established Task and Finish Group's work, on how best to deliver social care services at Rhyl's Hafan Deg Day Centre in future by transferring the facility over to a private provider and commissioning services from that provider, subject to strict contract monitoring of the services provided.

By following the link below you will be able to find more information about the Committee and its work:

<https://moderngov.denbighshire.gov.uk/mgCommitteeDetails.aspx?ID=269&LLL=0>

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How can residents participate in Scrutiny?

Would you like scrutiny to look at a particular matter?

You can raise a matter for consideration by one of Denbighshire County Council's scrutiny committees by filling out the Scrutiny Request Form (overleaf). The Chairs and Vice-Chairs of the three scrutiny committees meet periodically to decide how to allocate the work of the scrutiny committees and will consider if any matter raised should be examined in detail by one of the committees, or if another course of action should be pursued. This can range from a referral to the service responsible, to full scrutiny of the matter by one of the scrutiny committees, or even the establishment of a specialist 'task and finish group' to investigate and report on a particular matter.

Would you like to attend a meeting of a scrutiny committee?

Denbighshire County Council's scrutiny committee meetings are generally open to the public, and residents of Denbighshire and the general public are encouraged to attend. A list of upcoming scrutiny committee meetings and the matters to be discussed are available on the 'Scrutiny' page of the Council's website.

If you wish to take part in the discussion on a particular matter you will require the permission of the Chair of the committee (further details below).

Occasionally some items being discussed by a committee will contain confidential information and cannot be discussed in the usual public forum. Any such items (referred to as 'Part Two (II)') will be clearly identified when the meeting papers are published, and the Chair of the committee meeting discussing a 'Part II' item will make it clear that the meeting should continue without the press and public in attendance in order to avoid divulging confidential information.

Would you like to speak to a committee on an item being discussed?

Members of the public are very welcome to attend scrutiny committee meetings but will require the permission of the Chair of the committee if they wish to speak or make representations at a committee meeting. If you wish to submit evidence to a committee, or address members on your experience in relation to a subject under discussion, please contact the Scrutiny Co-ordinator in advance of the meeting so that this can be arranged and any paperwork can be circulated to members of the committee.

Occasionally scrutiny committees may wish to 'co-opt' an individual with particular experience or expertise to become a temporary member of the committee or ask them to contribute to an inquiry as an expert witness.

Keeping up to speed with decisions made by Denbighshire's scrutiny committees

You can keep track of what is being discussed at each scrutiny committee meeting, as well as any other public Council meeting, by visiting the 'meetings' page of the Council's website. The latest 'work programme' for each of the scrutiny committees is available with the meeting papers for each meeting and the confirmed agenda for each meeting will usually be available 5 - 7 days before the meeting is due to take place.

The minutes of previous scrutiny meetings and a record of the decisions made are also available on the Council's website.

Further advice or information is available by contacting the Scrutiny Co-ordinator, Rhian Evans on rhian.evans@denbighshire.gov.uk (01824 712554) or the Democratic Services Officer, Karen Evans, on karen.a.evans@denbighshire.gov.uk (01824 712575).

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SCRUTINY REQUEST FORM

Is there something you would like scrutiny to have a look at?

Please give a brief description of the topic you would like to be considered by one of the Scrutiny Committees and why you think it should be considered

Would you like to attend a meeting of a Scrutiny Committee?

YES/NO

It would be useful if you could give us the following details so that we may respond to your request

Your name:
Address:

Postcode:
Email:
Telephone number:

PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM TO: SCRUTINY CO-ORDINATOR, LEGAL, HR AND DEMOCRATIC SERVICES, COUNTY HALL, WYNNSTAY ROAD, RUTHIN LL15 1YN or e-mail it to rhian.evans@denbighshire.gov.uk

DRAFT

Consideration of a topic's suitability for scrutiny

Proposal Form/Request received

(careful consideration given to reasons for request)



Does it stand up to the PAPER test?

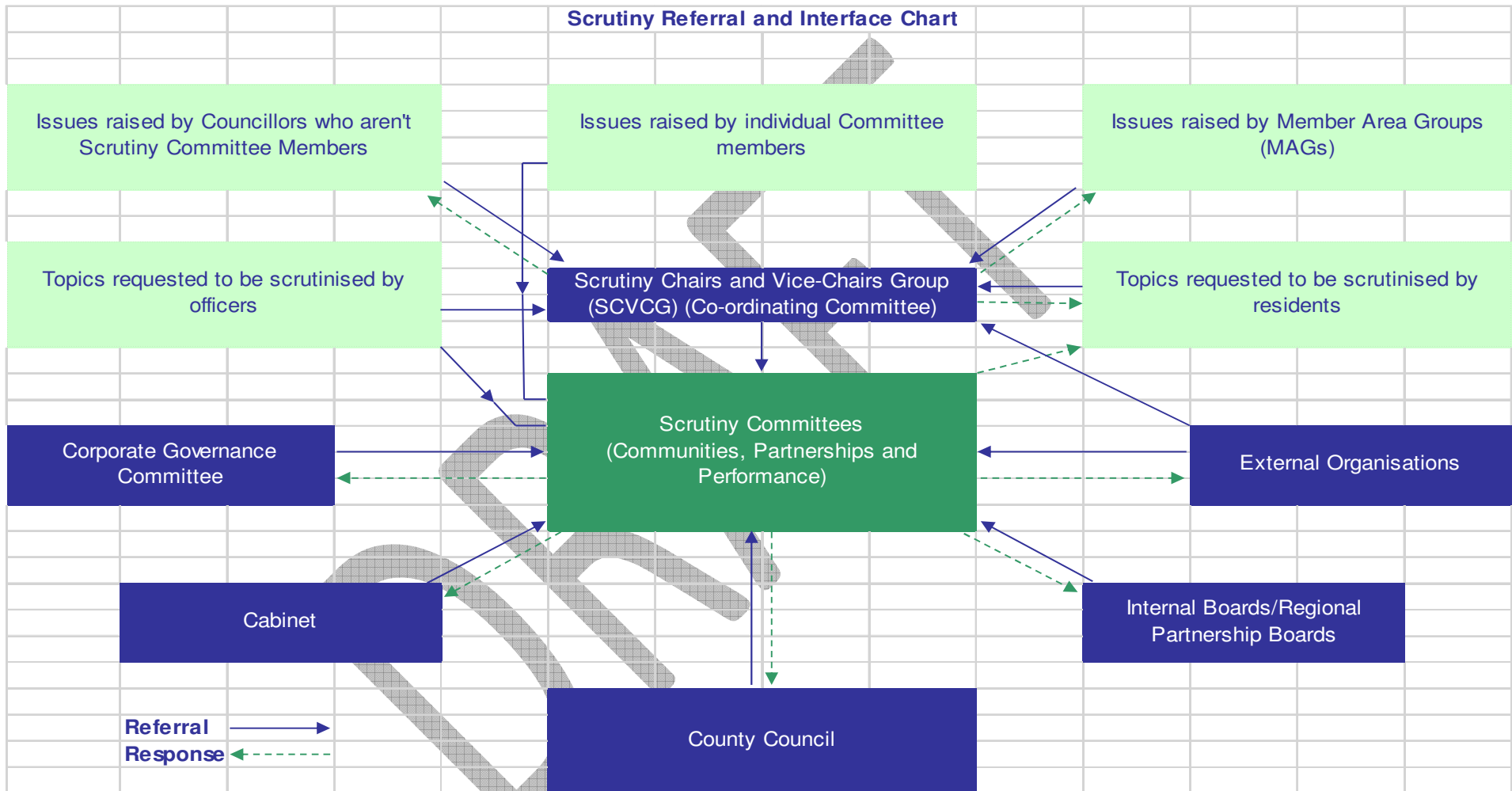
- **P**ublic interest – is the matter of concern to residents?
- **A**bility to have an impact – can Scrutiny influence and change things?
- **P**erformance – is it an underperforming area or service?
- **E**xtent – does it affect a large number of residents or a large geographic area?
- **R**eplication – is anyone else looking at it?


YES

NO

No further action required by scrutiny committee. Refer elsewhere or request information report?

- Determine the desired outcome(s)
- Decide on the scope and extent of the scrutiny work required and the most appropriate method to undertake it (i.e. committee report, task and finish group inquiry, or link member etc.)
- If task and finish route chosen, determine the timescale for any inquiry, who will be involved, research requirements, expert advice and witnesses required, reporting arrangements etc.



 anyone wishing to request that a matter be considered for scrutiny should contact the Scrutiny Co-ordinator or the Democratic Services Officer to obtain the relevant referral form (contact details are shown on the page 26)