

Report To: Partnerships Scrutiny Committee

Date of Meeting: 26th September 2013

Lead Member / Officer: Head of Business Planning and Performance

Report Author: Local Service Board Development Officer

Title: Developing Scrutiny Arrangements for the Conwy and Denbighshire Local Service Board (LSB)

1. What is the report about?

1.1 This report:

- 1.1.1 Informs Scrutiny members of the approved decisions made to date regarding LSB Scrutiny.
- 1.1.2 Provides Scrutiny members with options available to use for future Scrutiny of the Conwy and Denbighshire LSB.
- 1.1.3 Asks Scrutiny members to make a decision on their preferred option for future Scrutiny of the Conwy and Denbighshire LSB.

2. What is the reason for making this report?

2.1 To ask Scrutiny members to make a decision as to the option to be employed within Denbighshire for the future Scrutiny of the Conwy and Denbighshire LSB.

3. What are the Recommendations?

3.1 That Scrutiny members choose an option for future Scrutiny of the Conwy and Denbighshire Local Service Board.

4. Report details.

- 4.1 Strengthened Accountability for the Local Service Boards is a key aspect of [Shared Purpose – Shared Delivery](#) and it states: **Local Authority assurance:** *the statutory planning duties in the relevant legislation lie with a number of bodies but local government has a role in every part. For this reason, local authorities should have in place effective scrutiny processes to ensure local democratic accountability for partnership actions.*
- 4.2 A report was presented to the Conwy and Denbighshire LSB on 7th December 2012 which provided options on ‘the future Scrutiny arrangements of the Conwy and Denbighshire LSB as to ensure democratic accountability for Partnership actions’.

4.3 The report set out how the LSB scrutiny function fitted into the Welsh Government's legislative and public service reform agenda, existing practices and 5 possible options of delivery. These were:

4.3.1 **Option 1:** Utilise existing separate Partnerships Scrutiny Committees

4.3.2 **Option 2:** Utilise existing separate Partnerships Scrutiny Committees with co-option

4.3.3. **Option 3:** Develop a new joint Conwy and Denbighshire LSB Scrutiny Committee with no co-option (Sub-Committee of the Partnerships Scrutiny Committees)

4.3.4 **Option 4:** Develop a new joint Conwy and Denbighshire LSB Scrutiny Committee with co-option (Sub-Committee of the Partnerships Scrutiny)

4.3.5 **Option 5:** Option 3 & 4 but independent from the existing local authority system

4.4 The benefits and dis-benefits of each option are provided in Appendix 1.

4.5 **The preferred option of the LSB was Option 2 – utilise existing separate Partnership Committees with co-option.**

The LSB requested that each Council consult with their respective Members on the preferred option. Conwy consulted with its Members at the Cabinet meeting of the 12th February 2013, at which Option 2 was supported – utilise the Partnerships Overview and Scrutiny Committee with co-option be agreed (in relation to Conwy, this would involve using the Partnerships Overview and Scrutiny Committee with co-opted members (who have non-voting rights) in order to provide the broader base of knowledge/expertise covered by the remit of the Joint LSB).

4.6 Partnerships Scrutiny is asked to consider if they would support the LSB Proposal.

4.7 In the Local Government Measure 2011 there is the requirement for Local Government Scrutiny Committees to scrutinise public service providers in the area.

5. How does the decision contribute to the Corporate Priorities?

The decision is in alignment with each of the Corporate Priorities and more broadly will ensure improved outcomes are achieved for our communities.

6. What will it cost and how will it affect other services?

See section 9 below.

7. What are the main conclusions of the Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) undertaken on the decision?

7.1 That this will not have a disproportionate negative impact on protected characteristics and is more likely, as a result of scrutiny, have a positive impact (see attached EqIA at Appendix 2)

8. What consultations have been carried out with Scrutiny and others?

- 8.1
- Joint Conwy and Denbighshire LSB
 - Joint Conwy and Denbighshire Informal Partnerships Scrutiny Committee
 - CCBC Cabinet

9. Chief Finance Officer Statement

The recommended option 2 requires extra training, however this can be delivered within existing budgets. There should therefore be no financial impact.

10. What risks are there and is there anything we can do to reduce them?

- 10.1 The statutory requirements relating to Shared Purpose – Shared Delivery will not be met.
- 10.2 There may be dilution of councillors' community leadership role, regarded by the Simpson Report as an important force in bringing about transformational change
- 10.3 Fragmented collaboration and engagement as organisations would be left unchallenged by elected members about their commitment and contribution to tackling entrenched social problems.

11. Power to make the decision

- Section 21 of the Local Government Act 2000
- Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011
- Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011 Designated Persons Order (Number 1) Consultation Document
- Article 6.1 of the Council's Constitution

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