

<b>MEETING</b>	<b>The Council</b>
<b>DATE</b>	<b>7 May 2009</b>
<b>TITLE</b>	<b>Overview and Scrutiny Strategy 2009-12</b>
<b>PURPOSE OF REPORT</b>	<b>Present Strategy to seek Council's approval</b>
<b>AUTHOR</b>	<b>Coun. Simon Glyn, Chairman Resources and Corporate Policy Scrutiny Committee</b>
<b>RECOMMENDATION</b>	<b>Approve and adopt the Strategy</b>
<b>PORTFOLIO LEADER</b>	<b>Councillor Dyfed Edwards, Council Leader</b>

## **1. Background**

1.1 A Working Group was set up by the Resources and Corporate Policy Scrutiny Committee

1.2 The Brief of the working group was to revise the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Strategy by:

- Declare a clearly understood vision of the work of the Council's overview and scrutiny work;
- Set a n ambitious and achievable direction to overview and scrutiny over the next 3 years;
- Show the principles that need to be followed in order to achieve the vision (how we operate);
- Produce the Overview and Scrutiny document for 2009-12.

1.3 In order to meetthe brief of the Working Group it was necessary to answer the following questions:-

### Strategic

- How to maximise the input of overview and scrutiny to the aim of improving Gwynedd by cooperating with the full Council, Council Board and officers?
- Is the vision sufficiently challenging and achievable?

### Operational

- What are the key roles of the Scrutiny Committees?
- What is the exact role of members and officers in achieving the overview and scrutiny vision?
- How to scrutinise the Local Services Board and Strategic Partnerships?
- What are the key requirements of effective procedures and operating processes?

1.4 Five meetings of the Working Group were held, one with the Chief Executive and the Leader of the Council, and the Working Group attended a meeting of the Forum of Chairs and Vice Chairs and also a Forum of the Heads of Services. The minutes of the meetings are available.

1.5 The following were consulted:-

- Leader of the Council
- Chief Executive
- Management Team
- Administration and Public Protection Head of Service
- Portfolio Leaders
- Heads of Services' Forum
- Strategic Policy Managers
- Forum of Chairs and Vice Chairs
- Third Sector

## **2. Points Considered**

2.1 Discussions took place on the following points:-

- Selection and Management of Programme
- Briefing Arrangements
- The Running of the Scrutiny Committees
- Working Groups
- The Role of the Forum of Chairs and Vice Chairs
- Performance Management Committee
- Less Committees in the year, more Working Groups
- Location of Scrutiny Committee meetings

## **2. Further Improvements by the Scrutiny Committee**

Improvements were presented in the form of a draft Strategy by the Working Group to the Resources and Corporate Policy Scrutiny Committee on 16<sup>th</sup> April 2009.

Consideration was given to recent reforms to the Constitution recommended by another Working Group of the Committee, and further specific comments were made on the procedures of programming and preparing for scrutiny.

The Strategy was accordingly amended following the comments of Scrutiny Committee members, and these are included in the Strategy being recommended here to Council (24 April 2009 version – page 10, point 2 and page 20, point 2).