



Complete Agenda

Democratic Services
Council Offices
CAERNARFON
Gwynedd
LL55 1SH

Meeting

COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Date and Time

10.30 am, THURSDAY, 19TH APRIL, 2018

NOTE: A BRIEFING SESSION WILL BE HELD FOR MEMBERS ONLY

AT 10:00 am

Location

Siambwr Hywel Dda, Council Offices, Caernarfon, Gwynedd, LL55 1SH

*** NOTE**

This meeting will be webcast

<http://www.gwynedd.public-i.tv/core/portal/home>

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(DISTRIBUTED 11/04/18)

COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

MEMBERSHIP (18)

Plaid Cymru (10)

Councillors

Elwyn Edwards
Berwyn Parry Jones
Catrin Elen Wager
Simon Glyn

Annwen Hughes
Linda Morgan
Gethin Glyn Williams

Aled Wyn Jones
Edgar Wyn Owen
Gruffydd Williams

Independent (5)

Councillors

Peter Antony Garlick
Kevin Morris Jones
Elwyn Jones

Keith Jones
Mike Stevens

Llais Gwynedd (2)

Councillors

Robert Glyn Daniels

Owain Williams

Lib / Lab (1)

Stephen W. Churchman

Ex-officio Members

Chair and Vice-Chair of the Council

A G E N D A

1. APOLOGIES

To receive any apologies for absence.

2. DECLARATION OF PERSONAL INTEREST

To receive any declaration of personal interest

3. URGENT ITEMS

To note any items that are a matter of urgency in the view of the Chairman for consideration.

4. MINUTES

4 - 8

The Chairman shall propose that the minutes of the meeting of this Committee, held on 22.2.2018 be signed as a true record.

5. PLANNING AND THE WELSH LANGUAGE SCRUTINY INVESTIGATION UPDATE 9 - 29

Cabinet Member: Councillor Dafydd Meurig

To receive an update on the investigation

6. GRASS CUTTING OF THE COUNCIL'S OPEN SPACES

30 - 31

Cabinet Member: Councillor Gareth Griffith

Consider the Head of Highways and Municipal

7. STREET ENFORCEMENT TRIAL

32 - 33

Cabinet Member: Councillor Gareth Griffith

Consider the Head of Highways and Municipal

COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 22 FEBRUARY 2018

PRESENT:

COUNCILLORS: Stephen Churchman, Glyn Daniels, Peter Garlick, Simon Glyn (Chair) Annwen Hughes, Aled W. Jones, Elwyn Jones, Kevin Morris Jones, Linda Morgan, Edgar Wyn Owen, Mike Stevens, Catrin Wager, Gruffydd Williams and Owain Williams.

OFFICERS: Gareth James (Members' Manager - Support and Scrutiny) and Lowri Haf Evans (Member Support Officer)

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:

- a) In relation to item 5 on the agenda - Dyfrig Siencyn (Council Leader), Janet Roberts (Senior Corporate Support Manager).

In relation to item 6 on the agenda - Dafydd Meurig (Cabinet Member - Environment), Dafydd Wyn Williams (Head of Environment Department) and Meirion Williams (Senior Manager - Transportation and Street Care)

In relation to item 7 on the agenda – Dafydd Meurig (Cabinet Member – Environment), Dafydd Wyn Williams (Head of Environment Department), Gareth Jones (Senior Planning and Environment Manager) and Rhun ap Gareth (Senior Solicitor)

In relation to item 8 on the agenda – Dafydd Meurig (Cabinet Member – Environment), Dafydd Wyn Williams (Head of Environment Department), Gareth Jones (Senior Planning and Environment Manager), Nia Haf Davies (Joint Planning Policy Unit Manager) and Councillor Aled Evans (working group member)

1. APOLOGIES

2. DECLARATION OF PERSONAL INTEREST

None to note

3. URGENT ITEMS

None to note

4. MINUTES

The minutes of the previous meeting of this committee, held on 07.12 2017, were accepted as a true record of the meeting.

5. PUBLIC SERVICES BOARD – THE WELL-BEING PLAN (draft)

The Council Leader presented a report, requesting that Committee Members scrutinise the content of the Gwynedd and Anglesey (Draft) Well-being Plan and submit any observations. It was explained that the Public Services Board had succeeded the Local

Services Board, and that there was a desire and resolve to operate in a different manner to the previous Board to ensure its distinctness. The first step of the process was to publish a well-being plan that outlined how it was intended to improve the well-being of both County's residents. It was noted that there was a three-month statutory consultation period on the plan that broadly outlined the principles (that would end at the end of March), and that the Board would subsequently consider the responses before producing the final Well-being Plan.

The Leader, as a member of the Public Services Board, added that he looked forward to the creation of new partnerships that would be developing projects. It was accepted that there sometimes appeared to be a 'word creation' industry, but there was a will to see the outcomes by responding to the challenge of working by different methods. With the advent of these well-being areas, it would be possible to focus on specific areas - to identify the needs of different areas - and target work to the areas that required attention.

It was emphasised that Gwynedd Council was one of the partners, and that the content of the final plan would be the decision of the Public Services Board.

It was emphasised that there was an effort to create a readable document that would establish a conversation with communities by attempting to define well-being. Members were requested to encourage people to submit observations on the consultation document.

During the ensuing discussion, the following points were highlighted by individual Members:

- The document should be welcomed, as it identified understandable issues and ambitions.
- Difficult to address and implement. Although the matters raised should be praised, there was no resource to deliver.
- A failure that no solutions had been included e.g., elements of encouraging collaboration. A good start, but need to set targets and engage effectively.
- Need to provide reasons for people to remain in Gwynedd
- The document provided a firm foundation, but was of no value unless steps were taken.
- The need for a culture change in order to act effectively
- Welcomed the good background research which set a foundation for moving forward
- Accepted that there was a need to set priorities, such as the Welsh Language, Health and Poverty, but empowering communities needed to have a central focus, and consider projects that would make savings.
- Steps taken following the Welsh Government's acts, but no resource to deliver.
- High quality jobs were crucial, but no suggestions on how to achieve this. Anglesey's median salary was higher than the figure for the whole of Wales - why was Anglesey, a neighbouring Council, so much higher than Gwynedd? Detailed information was requested from the Corporate Support Senior Manager.
- The economy was crucially important.
- Funding was a factor that restricted the ability to deliver - need to think about different methods
- High value jobs and housing supply must be prioritised to encourage people to remain in their localities
- Suggest the creation of a Jobs Champion

In response to an observation about the economy, it was explained that the Council had identified that collaboration across North Wales was working, but in relation to community regeneration, it was accepted that insufficient attention had been given to the matter.

Reference was made to the Minister's strategy, which emphasised the need for a basic economy and the fact that individual jobs were important in maintaining communities. Although the focus was on large-scale plans e.g., Growth, it was also necessary to look towards the rural areas to maintain the economy, to develop plans and target economic assistance.

It was agreed that finance was the limiting factor in relation to the ambitions and what needed to be delivered, and that consideration should be given to methods that did not need significant funding but that could have a similar impact. The Services Board's task would be to develop different methods of working.

In response to a question regarding Leisure projects and the new Leisure Board that had been established by Gwynedd, it was noted that if any project relating to leisure was being considered, it was intended to invite Leisure representation to participate in the discussions to develop relevant projects. It was intended to identify partners for individual projects.

In response to a question about when the action plan would be submitted, it was reported that the final version would be submitted to the Full Council on 3 May 2018. Subsequently it would be necessary to create a timetable for implementation. It was noted that a separate document would not be published and that it was intended to publish a timetable for each individual plan.

It was noted that the plan was a huge step in the right direction. It was accepted that the Scrutiny Committee had a statutory duty to scrutinise the content of the document as part of the process of developing the plan. The Committee's wish for the Services Board to establish a firm timetable for the plan, to be updated during the process by means of progress reports, was noted.

Resolved to accept the report.

6. SUSTAINABILITY BALANCE – DARK SKY STATUS

A report by the Head of the Environment Department had been submitted following a request from the Scrutiny Committee for further information on the Dark Sky Status. A background report was provided that highlighted the benefits of a designated dark sky status.

During the ensuing discussion, the following points were highlighted by individual Members:

- There were obvious advantages to the status, especially its impact on the environment and nature
- The changes to street lighting had had a positive impact
- It must be ensured that the status would be balanced against health and safety
- Consideration had to be given to the local community's concerns.
- The context must be set out when considering a dark sky designation for Llŷn
- Policies should not be used to refuse applications in the context of safety
- There was a need for a management plan to measure the impact - a suggestion to set a baseline and to measure the impact of any changes on the environment, for example.

The observation on the provision of a management plan was welcomed. In response to the observations about balancing the status against health and safety, it was noted that there were a number of considerations in relation to securing dark sky status. As each

case was unique, it was reiterated that the evidence would be balanced and interpreted on a case by case basis.

Resolved: The information was accepted

7. PLANNING DELEGATION PLAN

Submitted - a report by the Head of the Environment Department about the new (draft) planning delegation scheme that contained the amendments that had been approved by the Scrutiny Committee. Members were reminded that Members of the Scrutiny Committee had conducted a planning scrutiny investigation, and that the delegation scheme was one of the fields that was scrutinised. One of the recommendations of that scrutiny investigation was amending the thresholds of the delegation plan. Reference was made to the proposed delegation plan that was included with the report, and the evident and extensive benefits that would be delivered by implementing the changes.

It was emphasised that one of those benefits was that fewer applications would be referred to the Planning Committee. Based on the high percentage of applications that were currently referred, it was noted that the changes would ensure that the Committee focused on dealing solely with the matters that were of material interest. This would ensure that the best use was made of the time and expertise of the Committee members and relevant officers.

The right of the Local Member, or two other members, to call an application to committee under specific circumstances, was acknowledged and supported; this would continue as per the current situation, and was considered to be acceptable.

The Committee was requested to confirm and support the draft proposed delegation scheme prior to its submission to the Full Council on the recommendation of the Monitoring Officer as it was a constitutional matter.

During the ensuing discussion, the following points were highlighted by individual Members:

- The number of applications that went before the Planning Committee were not excessive. The Planning Committee's purpose was to make decisions.
- Happy with the current system – need to adhere to a democratic process
- Accept that the changes would save resources and time, but would this mean that applications not referred to committee would receive less attention?
- Need to consider the nature of the objections rather than the numbers
- Consideration should be given to presenting an application to a 'would be of interest' committee - that a certain amount of correspondence would equate to 'creating an interest' even if there was only one reason for refusal / approval.
- Accept that the Local Member had the right to refer an application to Committee - this was beneficial and ensured that the local views were heard. However this could place the Local Member in a vulnerable position and open to allegations about their views.
- In order to consider the situation to date, a request was made for information from the Senior Planning Manager on the number of applications referred to the Planning Committee, how many of those applications went to an appeal, and how many of those appeals were successful.

In response to the observations, the Senior Solicitor noted that striking a balance was essential, and that the changes did not question how the Planning Committee made decisions. It was also noted that the Members had a key role in referring the applications

onwards in order to ensure the local aspect. The purpose of these changes was to ensure that the applications discussed in the committee were of substance.

In response to the observations, the Senior Planning Manager noted that all the matters had been considered in detail by the members of the investigation, and that the proposed changes had already been approved by the Scrutiny Committee. In response to concerns about correspondence it was noted that there was no rationale for three or more items of correspondence - only planning matters were to be addressed. He emphasised that each item of correspondence would be given attention, and that there was an opportunity here to strengthen the role of the local member.

In response to an observation regarding how the changes would reduce risk, it was reported that the specific statutory period of eight weeks to submit an application was challenging in relation to reporting and scheduling the submission of the application to committee at the appropriate time. If the service was unable to act within the eight weeks, the Council would be open to an appeal resulting in the repayment of the applicant's fee and payment of costs. It was noted that these appeals were challenging due to work pressures, and were therefore considered as a possible risk

In response to a question regarding presenting information about the changes to Planning Committee Members, it was noted that an information sharing session had been held in December 2017.

The Cabinet Member accepted that the workload of the Planning Committee was heavy, and that it should be ensured that the applications that required attention were given a fair hearing. He added that he was acting upon the recommendations from the investigation.

Resolved to accept the report, although the decision was not unanimous.

8. PLANNING AND THE WELSH LANGUAGE SCRUTINY INVESTIGATION UPDATE

(This item was chaired by the Vice-chair of the Committee, Councillor Mike Stevens, as the Chair, Councillor Seimon Glyn was a member of the investigation).

Councillor Aled Evans, a member of the investigation, (representing the Language Committee), was welcomed to the meeting

An update was given on the scrutiny investigation into planning and the Welsh Language by the chair of the Investigation, Councillor Gruffydd Williams. Attention was drawn to the main findings, and he noted that the findings, and the Committee's observations, would be included in a report that would be submitted to the Joint Planning Policy Panel on 9.3.18.

During the ensuing discussion, the following points were highlighted by individual Members:

- The number of Welsh speakers in Gwynedd was declining and something needed to be done to maintain the numbers
- A language assessment must be independent and transparent. This should be welcomed as a definite step forward
- It was suggested that three dwellings in a windfall development should be considered, rather than five
- There was a need to consider the cumulative effect
- Information was needed about the impact of the developments

The work to date and the next steps were supported. It was reiterated that the information should be robust and that language was an integral part of the planning system here in Gwynedd.

The meeting commenced at 10.30am and concluded at 12pm

Meeting	Communities Scrutiny Committee
Date	19 April 2018
Subject	Planning and the Welsh Language
Scrutiny Log Reference	C10

The Communities Scrutiny Committee is requested to consider the following recommendation.

That the Communities Scrutiny Committee recommends that the Joint Planning Policy Committee gives due consideration to the Recommendations and Further Comments/Questions by the Working Group and the Responses of the Panel (Appendix 1) by addressing the matters raised before continuing to hold a Public Consultation on the Supplementary Planning Guidance.

Gwynedd Council Full Meeting – 28 July 2017

- 1 A Full Meeting of Gwynedd Council was held on 28 July 2017 to consider a report by the Cabinet Member for the Environment, recommending that the Council should adopt the *Gwynedd and Anglesey Joint Local Development Plan*.
- 2 The following observations in relation to the language were submitted in favour of the recommendation:
 - The plan should be adopted in full because without a development plan, there would be no control over sites outside the development boundaries which would lead to negative social and linguistic effects.
 - Refusing the plan would be more harmful to the language.
 - It was accepted that the plan was not perfect, but the report was a live document with an opportunity for it to be amended annually, according to need, by regular discussion, reviewing and monitoring.
 - It was possible to create unique supplementary planning guidance for Gwynedd which would protect our communities, not destroy them.
 - Encouraging the use of the Welsh language across all Welsh Authorities remained a priority. The future of the Welsh language relied on good jobs locally, our schools' language policy and the status of the language in communities.

- If Gwynedd Councillors did not accept the responsibility, the responsibility would be thrown back to Cardiff to a Minister who wasn't as sympathetic.
- 3 The following observations in relation to the language were submitted opposing the recommendation:
- No changes had been made to the housing figures agreed following the publication of the 2011 Census which had shown a reduction of 4% in the number of Welsh speakers.
 - Information requested in relation to the impact of development on the language since 2011 had not been received and without this information, the Council was not in a position to accept the Plan.
 - 1700 representations had been proposed during the 2015 consultation - many of which were objections, but many had been disregarded as the Council claimed that there was no robust evidence to support them.
 - The details and evidence contained in an independent report regarding the Plan's detrimental impact on the language had not been considered.
 - The recommendation should be refused and an opportunity sought to adapt the Plan appropriately and submit an enterprising and pioneering plan which would be suitable for our Welsh-speaking communities.
- 4 Proposals were made to defer the decision on the linguistic grounds of:
- Seeking more time to complete an independent linguistic assessment and to receive more specialist information in the field of planning.
 - Defer the decision in order to share information with new Members and undertake further work on the supplementary planning guidance, particularly the language guidance.
- 5 The result of the vote on the recommendation was tied.
- 6 The Chair used her casting vote in favour of the recommendation.
- 7 The Council's decision was to adopt the *Gwynedd and Anglesey Joint Local Development Plan 2011 to 2026*.
- 8 An amendment was added, noting that preparing the new *Supplementary Planning Guidance on Maintaining and Creating Unique and Sustainable Communities* should be prioritised.

Briefing Meeting by the Cabinet Member for the Environment – 22 September 2017

- 9 A Briefing Meeting was held by the *Cabinet Member for the Environment* for Members of the Communities Scrutiny Committee and the Language Committee on *Consultation, Scrutiny and Adoption Arrangements for the Supplementary Planning Guidance – Maintaining and Creating Unique and Sustainable Communities*.

- 10 It was noted that it was important to produce Guidance that was based on clear evidence and that the process of producing a document should not be rushed.
- 11 Members of the Communities Scrutiny Committee agreed to consider how they could best contribute to the work.

Joint Planning Policy Committee

- 12 An agreement was made between Gwynedd Council and Anglesey County Council on 8 November 2017 to establish a *Joint Planning Policy Committee*.
- 13 The Committee includes seven members from Gwynedd Council and seven members from Anglesey Council.
- 14 The Committee's main functions are to:
 - Receive the *Annual Monitoring Report* and offer advice on it prior to its submission to both Councils.
 - Adopt the *Supplementary Planning Guidance* for the *Joint Local Development Plan* which is common to both Councils.
 - Be responsible for reviewing the *Joint Local Development Plan*.
 - Present the *Review Report* and the revised *Delivery Agreement* for the *Joint Local Development Plan* to both Councils for their agreement.
 - Be responsible for amending the *Joint Local Development Plan* and for submitting the amended *Joint Local Development Plan* to both Councils for adoption.
 - Accept and advise on a draft *levy charge list* for public inquiry and the Inspector's recommendations prior to submission to the Cabinet / Executive Committee for a decision.
 - Accept and agree upon an annual report on the arrangements for joint governance and funding.
 - Appoint any panel or working group to assist the Committee to deliver its functions.
- 15 In relation to the Supplementary Planning Guidance that solely affects the administrative area of one Authority, these will be submitted to the Joint Planning Policy Committee for information only.
- 16 In these circumstances there will be formal consultation with the other Authority.
- 17 There will be an explanation within the Supplementary Planning Guidance outlining why it is relevant to only one Authority's administrative area.
- 18 It is important to note that matters relating to the adoption of any Amendment to the *Joint Local Development Plan* will be retained separately by both individual Councils.
- 19 Matters relating to Scrutiny will be retained by both Authorities separately.

Joint Local Development Plan Panel – 17 November 2017

- 20 The *Joint Local Development Plan Panel* was established in the Joint Planning Policy Committee meeting on 17 November 2017.
- 21 The Panel and Committee have the same membership.

- 22 It is an operational working group, with the function of facilitating the work of creating consensus on key matters.
- 23 The Panel's objectives are to:
- Guide the Committee's decision on the *Annual Monitoring Reports* and *Plan Review Report*.
 - Publish draft *Planning Guidance*.
 - Assist the Committee to make decisions about the amended content of the *Local Development Plan*.
 - Assist the Committee to make a recommendation on the levy charge list to Gwynedd Council's Cabinet and Anglesey Council's Executive.
 - Accept, and take account of the observations made by the public and any stakeholder group/forum during periods of public engagement or statutory public consultation.
- 24 Its work commenced on 1 February 2018.

Planning and the Welsh Language Scrutiny Investigation

[Brief and Timetable](#)

The Investigation was established by the Communities Scrutiny Committee on 7 December 2017 and three Council Members were chosen to serve on the Investigation Working Group.

- 25 Its work commenced on 9 January 2018.

Communities Scrutiny Committee 22 February 2018

[22.2.18 Committee Report](#)

- 26 The Working Group's report was submitted to the Communities Scrutiny Committee on 22 February 2018, and the following Recommendations were adopted:
(It is not possible to expand on the points as the Planning Service has noted its wish to keep the details confidential at present). Therefore, to summarise:
- A clear statement is required stating that the developer needs to hold a public consultation on every development of 10 or more houses in an urban area and 5 or more in a rural/village area.
 - It needs to be stated that a Welsh Language Impact Assessment needs to be held on every development that is referred to a public consultation.
 - Members are concerned about the phraseology and format/style of the draft consultation document. It is difficult to see how members of the public are expected to understand the document in its current form and to contribute meaningfully to the consultation.
 - Clear details are needed on the methodology of holding a Language Impact Assessment. This is a critical part of the Assessment. Full details of the methodology need to be included in the Consultation.
 - There is also ambiguity regarding the descriptions of the Welsh Language Statement, and the relevance of the mitigating steps.

- A clearer description is required of what is expected of the language specialist from the Council's perspective and external individuals or organisations and their role.
- Members consider that the intention of the Planning Service to present a report of all comments made by consultees and a revised draft of the Guidance to Members of the Working Group by 31 May 2018 rather ambitious. We request an assurance of the ability to achieve this on time.

Joint Local Development Plan Panel – 22 March 2018 – APPENDIX 2 (for information)

- 27 The Working Group's report was submitted to the Panel, which included the following recommendations:
- 1A A clear statement is required in the Guidance stating that the developer needs to hold a public consultation on every development of 10 or more houses in an urban area and 5 or more in a rural/village area.**
- 1B It needs to be stated clearly in the Guidance that the Developer needs to submit a Welsh Language Assessment and a Welsh Language Impact Assessment for every development that is referred to a public consultation.**
- 2 Panel members should receive advice and guidance from independent experts in the field of Linguistic Planning when preparing the new Supplementary Planning Guidance and prior to consulting on the new draft Guidance.**
- 3 Panel members should receive advice and guidance from independent experts in the field of Research and Analysis when preparing the new Supplementary Planning Guidance and prior to consulting on the new draft Guidance.**
- 4 Panel members should receive advice and guidance from independent experts in the field of Engagement and Consultation when preparing the new Supplementary Planning Guidance and prior to consulting on the new draft Guidance.**
- 5 Panel Members should request an extension to the Timetable if needed in order to deliver work of the highest possible standard.**

The Communities Scrutiny Committee meeting 19 April 2018 (today)

- 28 Members of the Communities Scrutiny Committee are asked to:**
- a) Consider the Report and Appendix 1.**
 - b) Decide on the next steps.**

Appendix 1 - Recommendations of the Scrutiny Working Group - Planning and the Welsh language

Background

- 1 The Joint Local Development Plan Panel met on 22 March 2018. The Panel Chair agreed that the Scrutiny Working Group could present the 'Preparing for Consultation' report to the Panel. This report included a series of recommendations for the Panel to consider. Cllr. Gruff Williams, Cllr. Aled Evans, Cllr. Simon Glyn and Gareth H. James were given an opportunity to address the Panel and to answer questions. The Panel's response to the recommendations was requested by 6th April 2018.
- 2 The Panel had previously met on 26th January and 1st February to consider the first draft of the Supplementary Planning Guidance: maintaining and creating distinctive and sustainable communities. In accordance with the internal arrangements of the Isle of Anglesey County Council, comments were also received from the Senior Leadership Group. The Guidance was amended to respond to Panel's comments and those of the Senior Leadership Group, as well as the initial findings of the Scrutiny Working Group (submitted to Communities Scrutiny Committee on 22nd February 2018), when appropriate to do so. The Panel considered the revised Guidance and the initial arrangements for public consultation on 22nd March, alongside the recommendations of the Scrutiny Working Group.

Response of the Joint Local Development Plan Panel to the recommendations of the Scrutiny Working Group

	Gwynedd Scrutiny Working Group's Recommendation - Planning and the Welsh Language	Joint Local Development Plan Panel Response	Further Comments and Questions by the Working Group
1a	That a clear statement is required in the Guidance that the Developer is required to go to public consultation on every development of 10 or more dwellings in an urban area and 5 or more dwellings in a village/rural area.	It is agreed that engagement and consultation with the communities and various other stakeholders is important when considering a proposed development in the pre- application period and post submission of the planning application. The draft Supplementary Planning Guidance goes beyond the Working Group's expectations in recommendation 1a. The Guidance does not exceed the requirements of planning regulations regarding public consultation before submitting a planning	<p>It's unclear to Members of the Working Group what is the clear statement in the Guidance.</p> <p>The Welsh Government Planning Directorate have stated that pre-application consultations must be held for all applications of 10 houses or more.</p> <p>It does not matter whether or not they are allocated in the Local Development Plan.</p>

	Gwynedd Scrutiny Working Group's Recommendation - Planning and the Welsh Language	Joint Local Development Plan Panel Response	Further Comments and Questions by the Working Group
		<p>application. It places an emphasis on consultation and engagement with the public and other stakeholders regardless of the development (housing and employment/commercial) and wherever the site of the proposed development happens to be.</p> <p>Following receipt of the Panel's comments, the Senior Leadership Group of the Isle of Anglesey County Council, and the initial findings of the Scrutiny Working Group to the Gwynedd Council Scrutiny Committee, it was noted that relevant parts of the Guidance had been adapted to improve clarity regarding this issue.</p> <p>The new Diagram 5 in Section 2 of the Guidance sets out the expectations of the Authorities for engagement and consultation at the pre-application stage. It sets out planning regulations requirements for 'large' development in <u>Centres, Villages and the Countryside</u> to undertake a statutory public consultation before submitting a planning application. In terms of statutory planning requirements, a 'major' development is defined as:</p>	<p>This should be stated clearly and simply in the Guidance.</p>

	Gwynedd Scrutiny Working Group's Recommendation - Planning and the Welsh Language	Joint Local Development Plan Panel Response	Further Comments and Questions by the Working Group
		<p>(i) a housing development of 10 or more units or where the site area is 0.5 ha or more (if the number of housing units on the site is unknown);</p> <p>(ii) provision of buildings(s) where the floor area created is more than 1,000 m²; or</p> <p>(iii) development on site with an area of 1 ha or more.</p> <p>Public consultation is therefore required for a 'large' development wherever it is located, whether it is an urban area or a rural area, which is different from, and beyond the requirements of, the Working Group's recommendation.</p> <p>When planning regulations do not require a statutory public consultation, the Guidance (in new diagram 5) sets out the need for an applicant to engage with relevant stakeholders for a 'small' (housing and employment/commercial) development wherever it is located.</p> <p>Where a Welsh Language Statement is required, paragraph 13 of the methodology given in Appendix 7 of the Guidance sets out</p>	

	Gwynedd Scrutiny Working Group's Recommendation - Planning and the Welsh Language	Joint Local Development Plan Panel Response	Further Comments and Questions by the Working Group
		<p>the expectations of the Authorities that the applicant consults and engages with the local community about the proposal, regardless of size or its location.</p> <p>When a report is required about a Welsh Language Impact Assessment, paragraph 8 of the methodology given in Appendix 8 to the Guidance sets out the importance of engagement and consultation as part of the whole process of undertaking a Welsh language impact assessment. Paragraph 15 of the methodology is more to do with the engagement regime, and refers back to the new Diagram 5.</p> <p><u>Panel's Decision</u> - as a result of the adjustments made in response to previous comments, it is not considered that an additional change is required.</p>	
1b	That a clear statement is required in the Guidance that the Developer is required to present a <u>Welsh Language Statement and a Welsh Language Impact Assessment</u> for every development that goes to public consultation	Policy PS 1 of the Plan determines when a Welsh Language Statement needs to be submitted and when it is necessary to submit a Welsh Language Impact Assessment report with planning applications. A copy of Policy PS 1 is attached in Appendix 1 of the Guidance.	Members of the Working Group are of the opinion that any consultation on 10 houses or more or 5 in rural areas, whether they are in the Plan or Windfall developments, should include a Language Assessment. This should be stated clearly and simply in the Guidance.

	Gwynedd Scrutiny Working Group's Recommendation - Planning and the Welsh Language	Joint Local Development Plan Panel Response	Further Comments and Questions by the Working Group
		<p>Following receipt of the Panel's comments, the Senior Leadership Group of the Isle of Anglesey County Council's comments, and the initial findings of the Scrutiny Working Group to the Gwynedd Council Scrutiny Committee, relevant parts of the Guidance have been adapted to improve clarity regarding this issue.</p> <p>When Policy PS 1 does not require a Statement or an Assessment, the Guidance sets out the expectations for development that fall below the thresholds. Reference is made to Diagram 3 (new), Diagram 5 (new) and Appendix 5 - the screening process. This is done to ensure that all relevant developments take into account their impact on/ contribution to the communities.</p> <p><u>Panel's Decision</u> - as a result of the adjustments made in response to previous comments, it is not considered that an additional change is required.</p>	<p>It is stated in Appendix 8 of the draft Guidance that a Sustainability Assessment of the Local Development Plan has been influenced by a Welsh Language Impact Assessment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - How has it been influenced? <p>Three steps are noted for holding an Assessment:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Identify and assess the relevant baseline information <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What information was considered for the LDP? - What information needs to be considered before submitting a Planning Application? 2 Assess the proposed effect on the Welsh language. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What information was considered for the LDP? - What information needs to be considered before submitting a Planning Application? 3 Where appropriate identify mitigation, protection, improvement and expansion measures.

	Gwynedd Scrutiny Working Group's Recommendation - Planning and the Welsh Language	Joint Local Development Plan Panel Response	Further Comments and Questions by the Working Group
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Which measures were applied for the LDP? - Which measures need to be considered before submitting a Planning Application? - Are the measures proportionate to the likely effects?
2	<p>That Panel Members receive advice and guidance from independent specialists in the field of Language Planning when preparing the new Supplementary Planning Guidance before consulting on the new draft Guidance.</p>	<p>It is agreed that there is a need for advice and guidance from various stakeholders when preparing each of the Supplementary Planning Guidance to ensure that they give guidance and advice to applicants for planning permission and planning officers and the Planning Committees regarding the use of relevant policies. The report introducing the Supplementary Planning Guidance confirms that their preparation has been the subject of input from several specialist officers within both Councils.</p> <p>In the case of preparing this Supplementary Planning Guidance, preparatory work has meant getting detailed input from Planning Officers and Language Development Officers in both Councils. Discussions were also held with an officer from Menter Iaith Môn and an officer from the Welsh Government's Welsh Language Division. In addition, the Joint</p>	<p>It appears that the Panel is of the view that specialist should have a marginal role in preparing for consultation.</p> <p>Members of the Working Group are of the opinion that the current draft document is unsuitable in its present form.</p> <p>The Planning Committee has the opportunity to be innovative in this field of work by discussing the draft document in detail with specialists before consulting with the public and stakeholders.</p>

	Gwynedd Scrutiny Working Group's Recommendation - Planning and the Welsh Language	Joint Local Development Plan Panel Response	Further Comments and Questions by the Working Group
		<p>Planning Policy Unit was able to take advantage of linguistic planning sessions held by the University of Aberystwyth in 2015.</p> <p>The Panel noted that the Consultation Plan for this Guidance refers to consultation with the Office of the Welsh Language Commissioner and Welsh Government's Welsh Language Division during the public consultation period, as well as giving special interest groups an opportunity to contribute to the process of preparing the final Guidance.</p> <p><u>Panel's Decision</u> - as a result of the adjustments made in response to previous comments and the arrangements for obtaining expert opinion during the public consultation period, it is not considered that an additional change is required.</p>	
3	<p>That Panel Members receive advice and guidance from independent specialists in the field of Research and Analytics when preparing the new Supplementary Planning Guidance before consulting on the new draft Guidance.</p>	<p>In terms of this recommendation, it was noted that the role of the Guidance is to provide guidance on how to use relevant Local Development Plan Policies. It is not intended to report on research.</p> <p>It was noted that the explanation behind this recommendation refers to research</p>	<p>It is noted by the Panel that there are references to documents and lists in the Guidance.</p> <p>Members of the Working Group are of the opinion that this is insufficient and that a more specific and clear guidance is needed in the Guidance before consultation begins.</p>

	Gwynedd Scrutiny Working Group's Recommendation - Planning and the Welsh Language	Joint Local Development Plan Panel Response	Further Comments and Questions by the Working Group
		<p>commissioned by both Councils and the Snowdonia National Park Authority, with the input from the Welsh Language Board. The explanation refers specifically to one of the messages from that research. The methodology for carrying out work related to a Statement and Assessment identifies in-migration (and emigration) as key issues that the applicant would need to consider (with advice and guidance from a competent person) in drawing up the proposed development.</p> <p>It is agreed that detailed consideration of data and information is important in considering the impact of development on communities. Appendix 2 contains a list of documents referred to in the body of the Guidance. A link to web pages is provided where documents can be found. They are therefore relevant to the text of the Guidance.</p> <p>Appendix 3 provides a list of recognised sources. The Welsh Government's Welsh Language Division assisted in compiling the list.</p> <p>It is emphasised that an applicant is expected to make thorough enquiries about the sources</p>	<p>It is noted that competent persons within the two Councils use sources to check the Statement and Assessment.</p> <p>Members of the Working Group are of the opinion that more details are required in order to make the work more robust and to enhance the credibility of the work by including:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Job Titles 2 Job Descriptions 3 Details or Matrix of how the applications are checked.

	Gwynedd Scrutiny Working Group's Recommendation - Planning and the Welsh Language	Joint Local Development Plan Panel Response	Further Comments and Questions by the Working Group
		<p>when preparing the planning application. Equally, competent officers within both Councils will use the sources to check the Statement and Assessment. The public consultation period will provide an opportunity for anyone to suggest additional sources of data and information.</p> <p>The applicant, with the help of a competent person, is expected to use the data and information in the relevant sources when they consider what the impact of the proposed development is on the community/area of influence, and decide how the development can be adapted or how to introduce mitigating measures to ensure that the development is acceptable in terms of land use planning. The Planning Service, with the help of competent officers in relevant matters, will check the use of information and data from the applicant before reaching a conclusion on the proposed development.</p> <p><u>Panel's Decision</u> - as a result of the adjustments made in response to previous comments, it is not considered that an additional change is required.</p>	

	Gwynedd Scrutiny Working Group's Recommendation - Planning and the Welsh Language	Joint Local Development Plan Panel Response	Further Comments and Questions by the Working Group
4	<p>That Panel Members receive advice and guidance from independent specialists in the field of Engagement and Consultation when preparing the new Supplementary Planning Guidance before consulting on the new draft Guidance.</p>	<p>Appendix 9 to the Plan has identified which new supplementary planning guidance is necessary to support the Plan. The list was prepared during the preparation of the first draft of the Plan (the Deposit Plan). It is not the role of the individual Guidance to record this approach. Nor is it the role of the Guidance to record why the Guidance was not prepared alongside the Plan. The draft scope of each of the Guidance was prepared and published during the Public Examination of the Plan (2016).</p> <p>It was noted that the Panel had commented on the first draft of the Guidance to improve the clarity of the Guidance. It was noted that changes had been made to address the weaknesses identified, as well as issues raised by the Senior Leadership Group (Isle of Anglesey County Council) and the initial findings of the Scrutiny Working Group in its report to the Communities Scrutiny Committee on 22/2/18.</p> <p>The public consultation period will provide an opportunity to obtain views from various stakeholders about the Guidance.</p>	<p>It is noted by the Panel that changes have been made to address the weaknesses identified in the first draft.</p> <p>It would be good to see those changes, and to see if they are substantial.</p> <p>Although the Panel noted in its meeting with Members of the Working Group on 22 March that it intended to give due consideration to both documents presented by Members of the Working Group for their attention.</p> <p>It does not appear that the Panel has given careful consideration to those documents.</p> <p>Here are links to those documents:</p> <p>National Principles for Public Consultation: https://participation.cymru/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/PC-National-Principles-Poster3.pdf</p> <p>Principles into Practice: https://participation.cymru/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/nationalprinciples</p>

	Gwynedd Scrutiny Working Group's Recommendation - Planning and the Welsh Language	Joint Local Development Plan Panel Response	Further Comments and Questions by the Working Group
		<p>It was noted that the joint Planning Policy Unit had prepared a draft Consultation Plan with regard to the standards referred to, and in consultation with the Council's engagement officers. The arrangements explain when and how to make representations, how the comments will be considered (by whom and when) and how to find out about the final decision about the content of the Guidance.</p> <p><u>Panel's Decision</u> - as a result of the adjustments made in response to previous comments, it is not considered that an additional change is required.</p>	<p>The Joint Planning Policy Committee Members are requested to give detailed consideration to these documents before embarking on the Public Consultation.</p>
5	<p>That Panel Members request to extend the Timetable if required in order to produce work of the highest possible standard.</p>	<p><u>Panel's Decision</u> - based on the above, an extended timetable is not required.</p>	<p>Members of the Joint Planning Policy Committee are requested to address the recommendations in full before embarking on Public Consultation.</p>

Meeting	Gwynedd and Anglesey Joint Planning Policy Panel
Date	22 March 2018
Title	Preparing for Consultation
Brief Description	Report by the Gwynedd Scrutiny Working Group – Planning and the Welsh Language. The Working Group is supporting the Panel to develop the Maintaining and Creating Sustainable Communities Supplementary Planning Guidance Here are the First Set of Recommendations to support your work
Chairman	Councillor Gruffydd Williams
Working Group Members	Councillors Gruffydd Williams, Simon Glyn and Aled Evans
Officers	Gareth James – Members Manager – Support and Scrutiny Lowri Haf Evans – Member Support Officer

Could you respond to the following Recommendations please by **6 April 2018**:

- 1A That a clear statement is required in the Guidance that the Developer is required to go to **public consultation** on every development of 10 or more dwellings in an urban area and 5 or more dwellings in a village/rural area.
- 1B That a clear statement is required in the Guidance that the Developer is required to present a **Welsh Language Statement and a Welsh Language Impact Assessment** for every development that goes to public consultation.
- 2 That Panel Members receive advice and guidance from independent specialists in the field of **Language Planning** when preparing the new Supplementary Planning Guidance before consulting on the new draft Guidance.
- 3 That Panel Members receive advice and guidance from independent specialists in the field of **Research and Analytics** when preparing the new Supplementary Planning Guidance before consulting on the new draft Guidance.
- 4 That Panel Members receive advice and guidance from independent specialists in the field of **Engagement and Consultation** when preparing the new Supplementary Planning Guidance before consulting on the new draft Guidance.
- 5 That Panel Members request to extend the **Timetable** if required in order to produce work of the highest possible standard.

1 Welsh Language Speakers

Mae Increasing the number and percentage of Welsh language speakers and communities is an important priority for Gwynedd residents and Gwynedd Council

Recommendations

- 1A** That a clear statement is required in the Guidance that the Developer is required to go to public consultation on every development of 10 or more dwellings in an urban area and 5 or more dwellings in a village/rural area.
- 1B** That a clear statement is required in the Guidance that the Developer is required to present a Welsh Language Statement and a Welsh Language Impact Assessment for every development that goes to public consultation.
- 1.1 The *Well-being Assessment for Gwynedd and Môn* states that there has been an 11% decrease in Welsh language speakers in Gwynedd between 1981 and 2011.
- 1.2 The reduction in Gwynedd is greater than the level for the whole of Wales, where there was no reduction at all during the same period.
- 1.3 The *Gwynedd Council Plan for 2018-2023* states that one unique feature of the County is its Welshness.
- 1.4 One of the Plan's priorities notes the Council's commitment to operate through the medium of Welsh; but states that this is not sufficient if we are to keep the unique nature of the County alive.
- 1.5 One of the key results of the *Gwynedd and Anglesey Development Plan 2011-2026* is to aim to create more communities with a higher percentage than 70% Welsh speakers.
- 1.6 The *Welsh Government's Planning Directorate* says that there is a need to hold a consultation on every major development of 10 houses or more. It does not matter whether or not they are allocated in the Local Development Plan. This means that the developer needs to hold a consultation for all applications for 10 houses or more.

2 Language Planning

Ensuring specialist and independent input from the field of Language Planning is essential in order to secure the credibility of the new Guidance.

Recommendation

2 That Panel Members receive advice and guidance from independent specialists in the field of Language Planning when preparing the new Supplementary Planning Guidance before consulting on the new draft Guidance.

2.1 *The Manual on Local Development Plans – second edition – August 2015 states, ‘...It will be more efficient if the Supplementary Planning Guidance are produced jointly with other Local Planning Authorities (LPA) where possible. Another way would be for groups of LPAs to share examples of good and tailored to the local circumstances.’*

2.2 During 2005, 16 planning authorities (including Gwynedd and Anglesey), Welsh Language Board, House Builders Federation and Welsh Assembly Government worked together and in December 2005 produced a document *Planning and the Welsh Language: Way Forward*.

2.3 Consideration was given to this document when developing the current Supplementary Planning Guidance for Gwynedd, *Supplementary Planning Guidance: Planning and the Welsh Language (November 2009)*.

2.4 Although the 2005 publication is useful, it is quite dated by now and there is a need to hold a more up to date specialist work so that a Guidance can be produced that will benefit more recent and specialist language planning information.

2.5 The 2005 publication states (Appendix C 3.11), ‘...The matter of stipulating the connotation of ‘high’, ‘moderate’ or ‘low’ in terms of language importance is at the discretion of the local planning authority, and this is decided on the basis of the location of the prospective development and based on the results of the Language Profile exercise.’

2.6 Members of the Working Group are of the opinion that every one of the Communities in Gwynedd are designated as ‘high’ level in terms of language importance.

2.7 It is not expected that Gwynedd and Anglesey Councils possess the kind of resources and specialism required for this essential element of the work.

2.8 It is suggested that this should be considered as a priority as part of the preparation for consultation.

3 Research and Analytics

Robust information and data is required on the strengths and weaknesses of the current Guidance in order to produce a new Guidance that will address any weaknesses and build on any strengths.

Recommendation

3 That Panel Members receive advice and guidance from independent specialists in the field of Research and Analytics when preparing the new Supplementary Planning Guidance before consulting on the new draft Guidance.

- 3.1 A joint survey was commissioned by Gwynedd Council, Isle of Anglesey County Council and Snowdonia National Park Authority from Gwynedd Council's Research and Analytics Service in 2014.
- 3.2 A report was published in July 2014 called the *Gwynedd and Anglesey Housing and Language Survey*.
- 3.3 One example of the key findings was that '*in-migration weakens the Welsh language situation....*'(1.6.6)
- 3.4 It is not clear whether or not consideration was given to this report by Panel Members when you prepared the new draft Guidance and how the guidance addresses this issue.
- 3.5 Appendix 3 of the new draft Guidance lists 19 documents that it would be beneficial to the Developer to use as a basis for preparing the Language Statement and Language Assessment.
- 3.6 It is not clear to Working Group Members what is the exact relevance of these documents and how much influence was afforded to them by Panel Members when producing the new draft Guidance.
- 3.7 It is not clear to Working Group Members which data and background information was considered when forming the draft Guidance.

4 Engagement and Consultation

In order to maximise the value from Engagement and Consultation it would be beneficial to receive independent and specialist support.

Recommendation

4 That Panel Members receive advice and guidance from independent specialists in the field of Engagement and Consultation when preparing the new Supplementary Planning Guidance before consulting on the new draft Guidance.

4.1 The *Manual on Local Development Plans* gives guidance on consulting on Supplementary Planning Guidance

- *'Local Planning Authorities should review the effectiveness and relevance of their current Supplementary Planning Guidance at the beginning of the process of preparing the Local Development Plan.'* (7.3.2)
- *'When Supplementary Planning Guidance relate to the obligations of the plan or specific policy (key SPGs), and that they would help in understanding them, they should be prepared and consulted upon jointly with the Local Development Plan.'* (7.3.6)

4.2 It is not clear to Working Group Members whether a detailed review of the current Guidance was held at the start of the process of preparing the Local Development Plan.

4.3 If it was not undertaken it should be noted with an explanation for the reason of the decision taken.

4.4 If a detailed review was undertaken, the details should be noted as part of the consultation documents on the new Guidance..

4.6 It is not clear to Working Group Members why the Supplementary Planning Guidance and Local Development Plan were not jointly prepared and consulted upon at the same time.

4.7 The reason for this should be explained in the consultation documents.

4.8 The Joint Planning Policy Unit held an Engagement Exercise during the summer of 2016.

4.9 Before preparing the new Planning Guidance the Unit was *'eager to seek the views of various stake holders who have had experience of using the current SPG and/or who are interested in what kind of guidance should be included in the new SPG.'* .

- 4.10 A brief report was presented by the Unit to the Panel on 1 February 2018.
- 4.11 Working Group Members are of the view that there is useful qualitative information in the detail and it would be worthwhile for you to consider it in full as you prepare the draft Guidelines for consultation.
- 4.12 Here are the main elements that it would be worth looking at in detail:
- How does the new Guidance help the public and the developer to understand how a development can contribute towards maintaining and increasing the number of communities that have 70% and over of the population who speak Welsh?
 - How can the Guidance be made clear and unambiguous?
 - How can a professional and consistent standard be set for preparing and judging the Language Statements and Assessments?
 - How will you clearly explain the methodology?
 - How will you know if the Guidance is successful or not?
- 4.13 Working Group Members suggest that including examples of developments would help to clarify some elements of the Guidance.
- 4.14 Participation Cymru is a national organisation that gives guidance on matters relating to engagement and consultation. Gwynedd Council and the Isle of Anglesey County Council are committed to maintaining the standards of the *National Principles for Public Engagement in Wales*.

Appendix

[Communities Scrutiny Committee Report 22.2.18](#)

List of useful documents

Well-being Assessment Gwynedd and Môn 2017

Gwynedd Council Plan 2018-2023

Gwynedd and Anglesey Local Development Plan 2011-2026

Manual on Local Development Plans (August 2015)

Planning and the Welsh Language: Way Forward (2005)

Supplementary Planning Guidance: Planning and the Welsh Language (2009)

Gwynedd and Anglesey Housing and Language Survey (2014)

National Principles for Public Engagement in Wales

Engagement Summary 2016

Agenda Item 6

Committee	Communities Scrutiny Committee
Date	19 April, 2018
Title	Grass Cutting of the Council's Open Spaces
Cabinet Member	Councillor Gareth Wyn Griffith
Purpose	To seek the Scrutiny Committee's opinion on the need to make further savings in the service.

1. BACKGROUND

1.1 Members of the Scrutiny Committee are well aware of the reductions during the last 4 years to the budget available for maintaining the Council's open spaces. In addition to ensuring savings in the service, there have been cuts to the budget following the Gwynedd Challenge public consultation exercise in October 2015, and the full Council's decision in March 2016 to approve a series of cuts to Council services in order to address the deficit in the grant received from the Government to pay for local services.

1.2 Savings have been achieved, and budgetary cuts have been made following the Gwynedd Challenge exercise. The table below summarises the effect this has had upon the general standard of grass cutting in the Council's open spaces.

	Provision	Effect	Implemented	Savings
(i)	Rural Grass Cutting (Highway verges outside 30mph zones)	Change of frequency from 2 cuts per year to 1 (except at busy junctions and locations requiring visibility)	April 2015	£100,000
(ii)	Urban Grass Cutting (within 30mph zones)	Change of frequency from 5 cuts per year to 3	April 2016	£120,000
(iii)	Play Areas (131 in number)	Change of frequency from 8 cuts per year to 6	April 2016	£60,000
(iv)	Cemeteries (16 in number)	Change of frequency from 8 cuts per year to 6	April 2016	£60,000

1.3 A further £50,000 savings in the service is due (expected 2017/18), and has not been realized.

1.4 The purpose of this Report is to seek the Scrutiny Committee's opinion on the need for further savings.

2. CONSIDERATIONS

- 2.1 The relevant budget for urban grass cutting and play areas is approximately £391k this year, with a further and additional £29k used for providing flower beds.
- 2.2 In order to achieve a further £50k savings, it will be necessary to consider measures such as:
- reduce the frequency of grass cutting from 3 cuts per year to 2 on the outskirts of towns and villages
 - provide less flower beds.
- 2.3 Members of the Scrutiny Committee are aware of the discontentment with the current standard of 3 annual cuts and obviously lowering the standard further will surely prove to be contentious.

3. RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 The Scrutiny Committee is asked for its guidance regarding the need to achieve further savings to this service which will have an effect on the appearance of our towns and villages.

Agenda Item 7

Committee	Communities Scrutiny Committee
Date	19 April, 2018
Title	Street Enforcement Trial
Cabinet Member	Councillor Gareth Wyn Griffith
Purpose	To provide the Scrutiny Committee with an update on the matter and to seek its recommendation as to the way forward.

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 On 22 September, 2016 the Scrutiny Committee accepted the recommendations detailed in the Street Enforcement Scrutiny Investigation Report. One of the recommendations was for *'the Council to look towards externalising aspects of its enforcement work to add to the internal team. That work should focus on swift enforcement and penalties (FPNs) on a zero-cost basis to the Council (this should be trialled for an initial period of 12 months and subsequently reviewed)'*.
- 1.2 In accordance with this recommendation, an external company was commissioned to undertake the street enforcement trial for a year. The trial commenced in February this year but after only a few days the company's request to bring the trial to an end was accepted.
- 1.3 This Report is for the purpose of providing the Scrutiny Committee with an update on the situation and in order to seek the Committee's recommendation as to the next steps to take.

2. CONSIDERATIONS

- 2.1 The Scrutiny Committee's recommendation to undertake a trial was based upon the findings of a public consultation held in 2016 and which showed that residents were in favour of the Council being more firm with dealing with people who dropped litter on the street or allowed their dog to foul paths and pavements. A survey carried out at that time showed that 55% of residents who took part in the consultation were in favour of the Council using an external company to undertake the enforcement work for the purpose.
- 2.2 Subsequent to the Gwynedd Challenge public engagement exercise, the number of staff in the Street Enforcement Unit was reduced from 7 to 5 and in order to achieve an annual saving of £64,500. This also led to the Scrutiny Committee's decision to consider the use of an external company to assist in the enforcement work and at no cost to the Council.

3. POSSIBLE OPTIONS

3.1 The following possible options need to be considered in light of the recent failure of the trial carried out by one company:

- (i) To seek another external company to carry out a trial in the County.

There are at least 2 other companies undertaking this provision although they are not currently operational in this part of Wales.

- (ii) To collaborate with other neighbouring authorities in order to improve the provision.

The Isle of Anglesey County Council is also considering the way forward in terms of its Street Enforcement, and there may also be scope to consider the provision at a regional level.

- (iii) Re-consider the current staffing levels of the Street Enforcement Unit.

This is likely to lead to a demand for an increased budget in order to improve resources.

- (iv) Further interdepartmental collaboration whereby staff from other Council departments are delegated street enforcement powers.

This is already a recommendation of the Scrutiny Committee.

- (v) Seek North Wales Police assistance with street enforcement.

This has been attempted on several occasions e.g. the setting up of a protocol for the purpose. This is subject to, and heavily reliant upon, the priorities and resources of the Police.

4. RECOMMENDATION

4.1 The Scrutiny Committee is asked for its recommendation as to the way forward in seeking to improve the provision for the purpose of ensuring the cleanliness and appearance of our streets.