

ISLE OF ANGLESEY COUNTY COUNCIL Scrutiny Report Template

Committee:	Corporate Scrutiny Committee
Date:	24 th January, 2022
Subject:	Corporate Scrutiny Committee Forward Work Programme
Purpose of Report:	Assist the Scrutiny Committee in considering, agreeing and reviewing its forward work programme for 2021/22
Scrutiny Chair:	Cllr Aled Morris Jones
Portfolio Holder(s):	Not applicable
Head of Service:	Lynn Ball, Head of Function (Council Business) / Monitoring Officer
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Local Members:	Applicable to all Scrutiny Members

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1 - Recommendation/s

The Committee is requested to:

R1 agree the current version of the forward work programme for 2021/22

R2 note progress thus far in implementing the forward work programme.

2 – Link to Council Plan / Other Corporate Priorities

Effective work programming is the foundation of effective local government scrutiny. Our Scrutiny rolling forward work programmes are aligned with the corporate priorities of the 2017/2022 Council Plan and corporate transformation programmes – ensuring the role of Member scrutiny makes a tangible contribution to the Council's improvement priorities.

3 – Guiding Principles for Scrutiny Members

To assist Members when scrutinising the topic:-

3.1 Impact the matter has on individuals and communities [focus on customer/citizen]

3.2 A look at the efficiency & effectiveness of any proposed change – both financially and in terms of quality [focus on value]

3.3 A look at any risks [focus on risk]

3.4 Scrutiny taking a performance monitoring or quality assurance role [focus on performance & quality]

3.5 Looking at plans and proposals from a perspective of:

- Long term
- Prevention
- Integration
- Collaboration
- Involvement

[focus on wellbeing]

3.6 The potential impacts the decision would have on:

- protected groups under the Equality Act 2010
- those experiencing socio-economic disadvantage in their lives (when making strategic decisions)
- opportunities for people to use the Welsh language and treating the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language

[focus on equality and the Welsh language]

4 - Key Scrutiny Questions

5 – Background / Context

1. Background

1.1 Effective work programming is the bedrock of an effective local government scrutiny function¹. Done well, work programming can help lay the foundations for targeted and timely work on issues of local importance demonstrating where Member scrutiny can add value. Good practice advocates two key issues at the heart of the scrutiny forward work programme:

- i. Challenge around prioritising work streams
- ii. Need for a member-led approach and interface with officers.

1.2 Basic principles of good work programming²

- Work programming should not be a “start-stop” process
- Complementary work programmes for separate scrutiny committees
- Balance between different methods of work
- An effective process for reporting / escalating issues to the Executive
- Input and views of internal stakeholders
- Close working with the Executive
- Links with the Annual Scrutiny Report (evaluation and improvement tool).

2. Local context

2.1 There is now a well-established practice of forward work programming which are now rolling programmes focusing on the quality of scrutiny with fewer items, to add value. They are an important tool to assist Members in prioritising their work and are discussed with the Senior Leadership Team and Heads of Service. Both committees review the content of their work programmes on a regular basis, to ensure that they remain relevant and keep abreast with local priorities. Our local forward planning arrangements now ensure greater focus on:

- Strategic aspects
- Citizen / other stakeholder engagement and outcomes
- Priorities of the 2017/2022 Council Plan and transformation projects
- Risks and the work of inspection and regulation
- Matters on the forward work programme of the Executive.

¹ A Cunning Plan? Devising a scrutiny work programme, Centre for Public Scrutiny (March, 2011)

² A Cunning Plan? Devising a scrutiny work programme, Centre for Public Scrutiny (March, 2011)

Outcome: rolling work programmes for scrutiny committees which are aligned with corporate priorities.

2.2 Committee chairs lead on developing the forward work programmes and are submitted to the monthly Scrutiny Chairs and Vice-chairs Forum and for approval at each ordinary meeting of the scrutiny committees. The Forum is considered an important vehicle to oversee these programmes and jointly negotiate priorities.

2.3 **“Whole council” approach to Scrutiny:** our work programmes provide a strong foundation for our improvement programme, ensuring the role that Scrutiny plays in the Authority’s governance arrangements:

- i. Supports robust and effective decision-making
- ii. Makes a tangible contribution to the Council’s improvement priorities
- iii. Continues to evolve

2.4 **Impact of the current Emergency on the Committee’s Work Programme**

The current period (**managing the emergency response to the Pandemic, the Recovery Period and gradually returning to the New Norm**) are extremely challenging periods for the Council and every other public organisation throughout Wales as we continue to face the challenges of the Covid-19 emergency and it is inevitable that this will impact on the Committee’s work programme. As a result, the Council has changed its way of working as a result of the global health emergency. During an emergency period, governance and accountability are of key importance.

The Centre for Public Scrutiny proposes a specific scrutiny model as a result of the pandemic, which in conjunction with the Council’s Committee Strategy provides a structure to inform the Committee’s work programme. A summary is provided below:

- i. Focus on a smaller number of key issues around “life and limb” aspects of local people’s lives
- ii. Maintain a “watching brief” over Council services, performance and financial matters
- iii. **Specific elements of the Scrutiny Model**
 - Overview of the Council’s response to Covid-19
 - Specific overview of *life and limb* matters (social care legislation, safeguarding children and adults; public health)
 - Continued overview of the Council’s financial matters
 - Act as a conduit for community experiences.

3. **Issues for consideration**

3.1 The Scrutiny Committee receives regular update reports on the implementation of its forward work programme. A copy of the current 2021/22 work programme is attached as **APPENDIX 1** to this report for reference and includes changes made to the work programme since the Committee last considered the document.³

³ Meeting of the Corporate Scrutiny Committee convened on 16th November, 2021

3.2 Where appropriate, items may be added to the Committee's forward work programme during the municipal year. Requests for additional matters to be considered for inclusion on the work programme can be submitted via the Members Request Form for an item to be considered for Scrutiny. Requests are initially considered by the Scrutiny Chairs and Vice-chairs Forum, using the following criteria:

- the Council's strategic objectives and priorities (as outlined in the Council Plan 2017/2022)
- the ability of the Committee to have influence and/or add value on the subject (A Scrutiny Test of Significance Form will be completed).

6 – Equality Impact Assessment [including impacts on the Welsh Language]

6.1 Potential impacts on protected groups under the Equality Act 2010

6.2 Potential impacts on those experiencing socio-economic disadvantage in their lives (strategic decisions)

6.3 Potential impacts on opportunities for people to use the Welsh language and treating the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language

Not applicable for this overarching issue but will be considered as an integral part of preparing for specific proposals to be submitted for consideration by the Committee.

7 – Financial Implications

Not applicable.

8 – Appendices:

Corporate Scrutiny Committee Forward Work Programme 2021/22

9 - Background papers (please contact the author of the Report for any further information):

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ITEMS SCHEDULED FOR SCRUTINY → June 2021 – April, 2022
[Version dated 17/01/22]

Note for Stakeholders and the Public:

A [Protocol for Public Speaking at Scrutiny Committees](#) has been published by the Council.

Should you wish to speak on any specific item at a Scrutiny Committee then you should register your interest by submitting a written request using the form available as soon as possible and at least 3 clear working days prior to the specific Committee meeting. You can access information about the meeting and which items being discussed by reading this Forward Work Programme. Contact the Scrutiny Manager if you have any queries

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CORPORATE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE	PARTNERSHIP AND REGENERATION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
June, 2021 (07/06/21)	June, 2021 (15/06/21)
Performance Monitoring: Corporate Scorecard Qtr4: 2020/21	Update from Chief Executive of BCUHB
Finance Scrutiny Panel Progress Report	Annual Report on the Welsh Standards 2020/21
Housing Service Homelessness Data	Committee Forward Work Programme for 2021/22
Committee Forward Work Programme for 2021/22	
July, 2021 (08/07/21)	June, 2021 (28/06/2021)
Social Services Statutory Director Annual Report 2020/21	North Wales Economic Ambition Board Annual Report 2020-21
Committee Forward Work Programme for 2021/22	Public Services Board Annual Report 2020/21
	Annual Report: North Wales Regional Partnership Board (Part 9: Health and Social Services) 2020/21
	Committee Forward Work Programme for 2021/22
September, 2021 (13/09/21)	September, 2021 (20/09/21)
Monitoring Performance: Q1: 2021/22	North Wales Economic Ambition Board Quarter 1 Progress Report 2021/22
Finance Scrutiny Panel Progress Report	Schools Progress Review Panel Progress Report
Progress Monitoring: Social Services Improvement Plan / Social Services Improvement Panel Progress Report	
Committee Forward Work Programme for 2021/22	Committee Forward Work Programme for 2021/22
October, 2021 (18/10/21)	October, 2021 (19/10/21) - cancelled
Annual Performance Report 2020/21	
Nomination of Committee Member on the Waste Steering Group with WRAP Cymru	

CORPORATE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE	PARTNERSHIP AND REGENERATION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
Committee Forward Work Programme for 2021/22	
November, 2021 (01/11/21) - Budget 2022/23 - cancelled	November, 2021 (09/11/21)
	Welsh Language: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Language Strategy: 2021/26 – review • Welsh in Education Strategic Plan
	Joint Local Development Plan: Review Report
	Committee Forward Work Programme for 2021/22
	Update – For Information <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public Services Board - Governance Arrangements • North Wales Economic Ambition Board Qtr 2 Progress Report 2021/22
November, 2021 (16/11/21) - Q2	
Monitoring Performance: Corporate Scorecard Q2: 2021/22	
Finance Scrutiny Panel Progress Report	
Transition Plan	
Committee Forward Work Programme for 2021/22	
January, 2022 (24/01/22)	January, 2022 (18/01/22)
Local Housing Strategy: 2022/27	Annual Report - Community Safety Partnership
2022/23 Budget Setting (Revenue Budget) – initial budget proposals	Corporate Safeguarding
2022/23 Budget Setting (Capital Budget) – initial budget proposals	
Finance Scrutiny Panel Progress Report	
Committee Forward Work Programme for 2021/22	Committee Forward Work Programme for 2021/22
February, 2022 (28/02/22)	February, 2022 (08/02/22) - cancelled
Final Draft Budget Proposals for 2022/23	
Finance Scrutiny Panel Progress Report (to be confirmed)	
Climate Change Plan (to be confirmed)	
Committee Forward Work Programme for 2021/22	
March, 2022 (07/03/22)	March, 2022 (08/03/22)
Monitoring Performance: Corporate Scorecard Q3: 2021/22	Annual Report on Equalities: 2020/21
Housing Revenue Account Business Plan: 2022/23	North Wales Economic Ambition Board Qtr 3 Progress Report 2021/22

CORPORATE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE	PARTNERSHIP AND REGENERATION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
Progress Monitoring: Social Services Improvement Plan / Social Services Improvement Panel Progress Report	Population Needs Assessment: Social Services and Wellbeing Act 2014 (to be confirmed)
Homelessness Strategy and Housing Support Grant (07/03/2022)	Public Services Board – scrutiny of progress and delivery of the Wellbeing Plan (to be confirmed)
	Scrutiny of Partnerships
Committee Forward Work Programme for 2021/22	Committee Forward Work Programme for 2021/22