

ISLE OF ANGLESEY COUNTY COUNCIL

Scrutiny Report Template

Committee:	Corporate Scrutiny Committee
Date:	10 th April, 2025
Subject:	Corporate Scrutiny Committee Forward Work Programme
Purpose of Report:	Assist the Scrutiny Committee in considering, agreeing and reviewing its forward work programme for 2025/26
Scrutiny Chair:	Cllr Douglas Massie Fowlie
Portfolio Holder(s):	Not applicable
Head of Service:	Lynn Ball, Director of Function (Council Business) / Monitoring Officer
Report Author:	Anwen Davies, Scrutiny Manager
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Local Members:	Applicable to all Scrutiny Members

25

1 - Recommendation/s

The Committee is requested to:

R1 agree the current version of the forward work programme for 2025/26.

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 Council 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:

- Challenge around prioritising work streams
- 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 Strategic 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 Council Plan and transformation projects
- Risks and the work of inspection and regulation
- Matters on the forward work programme of the Executive.

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

² A Cuning 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.

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 2025/26 work programme is attached as **APPENDIX 1** to this report for reference.

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)
- 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 2025/26

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

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ITEMS SCHEDULED FOR SCRUTINY → MAY, 2025 – APRIL, 2026
[Version dated 06/03/25]

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
May, 2025 (20/05/2025)	May, 2025 (20/05/2025)
Election of Chair: 2025/26	Election of Chair: 2025/26
Election of Vice-chair: 2025/26	Election of Vice-chair: 2025/26
June, 2025 (17/06/2025) – Q4	June, 2025 (12/06/2025) – Education / Welsh Language
Performance Monitoring: Corporate Scorecard Qtr4: 2024/25	Welsh Language: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual Report on the Welsh Standards: 2024/25 • Welsh in Education Strategic Plan: 2024/25→ Measure Progress
Annual Delivery Plan: 2025/26	
Draft Corporate Self-Assessment 2025	UK Government Funded Programme [Ynys Môn Levelling Up Programme – Measure Progress]
Item for Information: Ambition North Wales Qtr 4: 2024/25 Progress Report	
Committee Forward Work Programme for 2025/26	Committee Forward Work Programme for 2025/26
No meeting scheduled	July, 2025 (15/07/2025) – Emergency Services
	North Wales Fire & Rescue Service
	North Wales Police and Crime Commissioner / North Wales Police
	Gwynedd & Ynys Môn Public Services Board Annual Report: 2024/25
	Committee Forward Work Programme for 2025/26
September, 2025 (17/09/2025) – Q1	September, 2025 (16/09/2025) – Post-16 Education Options
Performance Monitoring: Corporate Scorecard Q1: 2025/26	Grwp Llandrillo Menai
Annual Performance Report: 2024/25	Bangor University

CORPORATE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE	PARTNERSHIP AND REGENERATION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
Committee Forward Work Programme for 2025/26	Committee Forward Work Programme for 2025/26
October, 2025 (15/10/2025)	October, 2025 (14/10/2025) – Education
Annual Report North Wales Regional Partnership Board (Part 9): 2024/25	Standards in Schools Annual Report 2024 /25
Regional Emergency Planning Service Annual Report: 2024/25	Education Scrutiny Panel Progress Report
Recommendations of the Scrutiny Task and Finish Group: Letting of Council Accommodation – update on progress.	
Item for Information: Ambition North Wales: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Annual Report: 2024/25 Qtr 1: 2025/26 Progress Report 	
Committee Forward Work Programme for 2025/26	Committee Forward Work Programme for 2025/26
	November, 2025 (13/11/2025) - Crime and Disorder
	Gwynedd & Ynys Môn Community Safety Partnership Annual Report: 2024/25
	Menter Môn
	Committee Forward Work Programme for 2025/26
November, 2025 (18/11/2025) - Q2	November, 2025 (26/11/2025) – Health
Monitoring Performance: Corporate Scorecard Q2: 2025/26	Audit Wales: Urgent and Emergency Care: Flow out of Hospital-North Wales Region- measure progress
	Welsh Ambulance Services Trust
	Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board
Committee Forward Work Programme for 2025/26	
January, 2026 (21/01/2026) – 2026/27 Budget (morning)	January, 2026 (20/01/2026)
2026/27 Budget Setting (Revenue Budget) – initial budget proposals	Corporate Safeguarding
Finance Scrutiny Panel Progress Report	Natural Resources Wales
	UK Government Funded Programme [Ynys Môn Levelling Up Programme – Measure Progress
	Committee Forward Work Programme for 2025/26

CORPORATE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE	PARTNERSHIP AND REGENERATION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
January, 2026 (21/01/2026) (afternoon)	
Item for Information: Ambition North Wales Qtr 2: 2025/26 Progress Report	
Committee Forward Work Programme for 2025/26	
February, 2026 (18/02/2026) – 2026/27 Budget	February, 2026 (12/02/2026) - Education
Final Draft Budget Proposals for 2026/27 – revenue & capital	Partneriaeth Anghenion Dysgu Ychwanegol a Chynhwysiad Gwynedd ac Ynys Môn
Finance Scrutiny Panel Progress Report	Education Scrutiny Panel Progress Report
	Shared Prosperity Fund (to be confirmed)
Committee Forward Work Programme for 2025/26	Committee Forward Work Programme for 2025/26
March, 2026 (18/03/2026) - Q3	March, 2026 (17/03/2026)
Monitoring Performance: Corporate Scorecard Q3: 2025/26	Annual Report on Equalities: 2024/25
Housing Revenue Account Business Plan: 2026/2056	Public Services Board – governance arrangements / scrutiny of delivery of the Wellbeing Plan
	Ynys Môn Free Port – measure progress
Item for Information - Ambition North Wales Qtr 3: 2025/26 Progress Report	
Committee Forward Work Programme for 2025/26	Committee Forward Work Programme for 2025/26
April, 2026 (22/04/2026)	April, 2026 (21/04/2026)
	Ynys Môn Citizens Advice
	Medrwn Môn
	Communities for Work Plus Programme: Annual Report 2024/25
Committee Forward Work Programme for 2025/26	Committee Forward Work Programme for 2025/26

Items to be scheduled:

Corporate Scrutiny Committee	Partnership and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee
Census 2021	Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Action Plan
Modernisation of Learning Communities and Strengthen the Welsh Language Programme	Improving Reliability and Resilience across the Menai Straits

Tree Strategic Plan	Impact of Tourism on Anglesey Local Communities (resolution of the Partnership and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee, 21/06/2023)
Service Asset Management Plan 2024/34 – Smallholdings Estate	Ynys Môn Local Development Plan
Ambition North Wales Qtr4: 2025/26: Progress Report	Local Tourism Levy for Wales
North Wales Corporate Joint Committee	Towards Net Zero Strategic Plan
Health and Safety Strategic Plan	Schools Improvement Service Arrangements
Play Strategic Plan	Anglesey Homelessness
Schools' Digital Strategic Plan	
Canolfan Addysg y Bont (Lessons Learnt)	