

Isle of Anglesey County Council Scrutiny Report

Committee:	Corporate Scrutiny Committee
Date:	17th June, 2025
Subject:	Corporate Scrutiny Committee Forward Work Programme
Scrutiny Chair:	Cllr Jeff Evans

1. Who will be the portfolio holder presenting / leading the report?

Portfolio Holder	Role
Not applicable	
Service Officer (Supporting)	Role
Anwen Davies	Scrutiny Manager

2. Why the Scrutiny Committee is being asked to consider the matter

Assist the Scrutiny Committee in considering, agreeing and reviewing its forward work programme for 2025/26

3. Role of the Scrutiny Committee and recommendations

- For assurance
 For recommendation to the Executive
 For information

Recommendation(s):

The Committee is requested to:

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

R2 note progress thus far in implementing the forward work programme

4. How does the recommendation(s) contribute to the objectives of the Council's Plan?

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.

5. Key scrutiny themes

Not applicable

6. Key points / summary

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 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. **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.

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)

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 and includes changes made to the work programme since the Committee last considered the document.³

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).

7. Impact assessments

7.1. Potential impacts on groups protected under the Equality Act 2010

Not applicable

7.2. Potential impacts on those experiencing socio-economic disadvantage (strategic decisions)

Not applicable

7.3. Potential effects on opportunities to use Welsh and not treat the language less favourably than English

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.

³ Meeting of the Corporate Scrutiny Committee convened on 10th April, 2025

7.4. Potential impact on the Council's Net Zero Carbon target

Not applicable

8. Financial implications

Not applicable

9. Appendices

Corporate Scrutiny Committee Forward Work Programme 2025/26

10. Report author and background papers

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

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
May, 2025 (21/05/2025)-Additional Meeting	
Results of Engagement on Post-16 Education Provision	
Ysgol Uwchradd Caerdybi School building	
June, 2025 (17/06/2025) – Q4	
Performance Monitoring: Corporate Scorecard Qtr4: 2024/25	June, 2025 (12/06/2025) – Education / Welsh Language
Annual Delivery Plan: 2025/26	Welsh Language: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual Report on the Welsh Standards: 2024/25 • Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2022-2032: Measure Progress→2024/25
Canolfan Addysg y Bont Roof Repair: Lessons Learned	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

CORPORATE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE	PARTNERSHIP AND REGENERATION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
	Committee Forward Work Programme for 2025/26
September, 2025 (17/09/2025) – Q1	September, 2025 (16/09/2025) – Joint Working with Grŵp Llandrillo Menai & Bangor University
Performance Monitoring: Corporate Scorecard Q1: 2025/26	Grŵp Llandrillo Menai
Annual Performance Report: 2024/25	Bangor University
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.	Schools' Digital Strategic Plan
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)

CORPORATE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE	PARTNERSHIP AND REGENERATION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
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
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	
Final Draft Budget Proposals for 2026/27 – revenue & capital	February, 2026 (12/02/2026) - Education
Finance Scrutiny Panel Progress Report	Gwynedd and Ynys Môn Additional Learning Needs & Inclusion Partnership
	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	
Monitoring Performance: Corporate Scorecard Q3: 2025/26	March, 2026 (17/03/2026)
Housing Revenue Account Business Plan: 2026/2056	Annual Report on Equalities: 2024/25
	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	School Improvement Guidance: A Framework for Evaluation, Improvement and Accountability
Play Strategic Plan	Anglesey Homelessness
	Local Area Energy Plan