

Isle of Anglesey County Council Scrutiny Report

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| Committee: | Corporate Scrutiny Committee |
| Date: | 17th September, 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 17th June, 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

Anwen Davies, Scrutiny Manager, Isle of Anglesey, Council Offices, Llangefni. LL77 7TW

ITEMS SCHEDULED FOR SCRUTINY → MAY, 2025 – APRIL, 2026
[Version dated 05/09/25]

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 |
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| 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 |
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| May, 2025 (21/05/2025)-Additional Meeting | |
| Results of Engagement on Post-16 Education Provision | |
| Ysgol Uwchradd Caergybi School building | |
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| 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 2022-2032: Measure Progress→2024/25 |
| Annual Delivery Plan: 2025/26 | UK Government Funded Programme [Ynys Môn Levelling Up Programme – Measure Progress] |
| Canolfan Addysg y Bont Roof Repair: Lessons Learned | |
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| 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 |
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| No meeting scheduled | July, 2025 (15/07/2025) – Emergency Services |
| | North Wales Police |
| | North Wales Police and Crime Commissioner |
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| | Committee Forward Work Programme for 2025/26 |

| CORPORATE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE | PARTNERSHIP AND REGENERATION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE |
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| 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 |
| Recommendations of the Scrutiny Task and Finish Group: Letting of Council Accommodation – update on progress | Bangor University |
| Membership of Scrutiny Panels | Membership of Scrutiny Panels |
| Committee Forward Work Programme for 2025/26 | Committee Forward Work Programme for 2025/26 |
| October, 2025 (15/10/2025) | October, 2025 (14/10/2025) – Crime and Disorder |
| Annual Report North Wales Regional Partnership Board (Part 9): 2024/25 | Menter Môn |
| Regional Emergency Planning Service Annual Report: 2024/25 | Gwynedd & Ynys Môn Community Safety Partnership Annual Report: 2024/25 |
| Results of Consultation on Proposal to Relocate Ysgol Uwchradd Caergybi to a New School Building for 11-18 Year Old Learners | |
| Modernising Learning Communities: Business Case (exempt item) | |
| 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) - Education |
| | School improvement guidance: framework for evaluation, improvement and accountability |
| | Education Scrutiny Panel Progress Report |
| | Education Digital Strategic Plan |
| | 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 |
| Self-Assessment, Performance and Wellbeing Report 2024/25 | Welsh Ambulance Services Trust |
| 2026/27 Budget Setting (Revenue Budget) – initial budget proposals | Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board |

| CORPORATE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE | PARTNERSHIP AND REGENERATION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE |
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| Resources Scrutiny Panel Progress Report | |
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| Committee Forward Work Programme for 2025/26 | |
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| January, 2026 (21/01/2026) – 2026/27 (morning) | January, 2026 (20/01/2026) |
| | Corporate Safeguarding |
| | UK Government Funded Programme [Ynys Môn Levelling Up Programme] – Measure Progress |
| | Gwynedd and Ynys Môn Public Services Board: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual Report 2024/25 • Governance arrangements / scrutiny of delivery of the Wellbeing Plan |
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| | Committee Forward Work Programme for 2025/26 |
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| January, 2026 (21/01/2026) (afternoon) | |
| Modernisation of Learning Communities – Objections Report and Final Decision on Ysgol Uwchradd Caergybi | |
| Item for Information: Ambition North Wales Qtr 2: 2025/26 Progress Report | |
| Committee Forward Work Programme for 2025/26 | |
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| February, 2026 (18/02/2026) – 2026/27 Budget | February, 2026 (12/02/2026) - Education |
| Final Draft Budget Proposals for 2026/27 – revenue & capital | Gwynedd and Ynys Môn Additional Learning Needs & Inclusion Partnership |
| Resources Scrutiny Panel Progress Report | Education Scrutiny Panel Progress Report |
| | Shared Prosperity Fund (to be confirmed) |
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| Committee Forward Work Programme for 2025/26 | Committee Forward Work Programme for 2025/26 |
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| March, 2026 (18/03/2026) - Q3 | March, 2026 (17/03/2026) |
| Monitoring Performance: Corporate Scorecard Q3: 2025/26 | Natural Resources Wales |
| Housing Revenue Account Business Plan: 2026/2056 | Annual Report on Equalities: 2024/25 |
| | Ynys Môn Free Port – measure progress |
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| Item for Information - Ambition North Wales Qtr 3: 2025/26 Progress Report | |

| CORPORATE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE | PARTNERSHIP AND REGENERATION SCRUTINY COMMITTEE |
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| Committee Forward Work Programme for 2025/26 | Committee Forward Work Programme for 2025/26 |
| April, 2026 (22/04/2026) | April, 2026 (21/04/2026)-Tackling Poverty |
| | 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 |
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| 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 |
| | Impact of Tourism on Anglesey Local Communities (resolution of the Partnership and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee, 21/06/2023) |
| Ambition North Wales Qtr4: 2025/26: Progress Report | Ynys Môn Local Development Plan |
| North Wales Corporate Joint Committee | Local Tourism Levy for Wales |
| Health and Safety Strategic Plan | Anglesey Homelessness |
| Towards Net Zero Strategic Plan | North Wales Fire & Rescue Service |
| | UK Government Funded Programme [Ynys Môn Levelling Up Programme] – Measure Progress (June /July 2026) |
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