

CORPORATE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the hybrid meeting held on 15 October 2025

PRESENT:

Councillor Jeff M Evans (Chair)
Councillor Sonia Williams (Vice-Chair)

Councillors Geraint Bebb, Aled M Jones, John Ifan Jones,
R LI Jones, Llio Angharad Owen, Keith Roberts, Ieuan Williams
and Arfon Wyn

Co-opted Members :

John Tierney (The Catholic Church in Wales)
Christina Williams (Parent Governor – Secondary Sector and ALN)

Portfolio Members

Councillor Gary Pritchard (Leader of the Council & Portfolio
Member for Economic Development,
Councillor Neville Evans – Portfolio Member of Leisure, Tourism &
Maritime,
Councillor Carwyn Jones – Portfolio Member for Corporate
Business & Customer Experience,
Councillor Alun Roberts – Portfolio Member for Adults' Services &
Community Safety,
Councillor Dafydd Roberts – Portfolio Member for Education and
the Welsh Language),
Councillor Robin Williams – Deputy Leader and Portfolio Member
for Finance and Housing Services.

IN ATTENDANCE:

Chief Executive,
Deputy Chief Executive,
Director of Social Services,
Director of Education, Skills and Young People,
Head of Adults' Services,
Head of Democracy (DS),
Scrutiny Manager (AGD),
Executive Manager (Leadership Team) (SO) (for item 4),
Strategic Leader (Secondary) (ED) (for items 6 & 8),
Corporate Planning, Performance and Programme Manager (GP)
(for items 6 & 8),
Programme Manager (EB) (for item 8),
Programme Manager (AH) (for item 8),
Committee Officer (MEH),
Support Assistant (Democratic Services) Webcasting (CH).

ALSO PRESENT: Local Members invited for item 8

Councillors Glyn Haynes, Pip O'Neill and Dafydd Rhys Thomas.

Joseph Griffiths – North Wales Regional Partnership Board (for item 3);

Helen Kilgannon – Regional Manager (North Wales Councils – Regional Emergency Planning Service)

Jon Zalot – North Wales Councils – Regional Emergency Planning Service.

APOLOGIES:

Councillor Jackie Lewis and Alwen P Watkin.
Kathryn Seeney (Parent Governor – Primary)

Councillor Gwilym O Jones (Local Member invited for item 8)

1 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Councillor Jeff Evans declared a personal and prejudicial interest in Items 6 & 8 as he is a Governor at Ysgol Uwchradd Caergybi and family members working at the school. Following the granting of a dispensation by the Standards Committee – Dispensation Panel held on 9 October, 2025 he was allowed to take part and vote in respect of these items.

Councillor Keith Roberts declared a personal and prejudicial interest in Items 6 & 8 as he is a Governor and Ysgol Uwchradd Caergybi. Following the granting of a dispensation by the Standards Committee – Dispensation Panel held on 9 October, 2025 he was allowed to take part and vote in respect of these items.

Councillor Robert LI Jones declared a personal interest in Items 6 & 8 as he has a family member working at the school.

Councillor Ieuan Williams declared a personal interest in Items 6 & 8 as he has been co-opted on the Governors of Ysgol Uwchradd Caergybi.

2 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the previous meeting of the Corporate Scrutiny Committee held on 17 September 2025 were confirmed as correct, subject to the name of Councillor Llio Angharad Owen in the members present.

Actions from the last meeting

- That updated data regarding population trends be presented to a future members' briefing session. – **Programmed as an item for a future members' briefing session.**

- The Portfolio Member for Leisure, Tourism and Maritime to discuss activity scheduling with the MônActif Manager including the feasibility of weekend and early/late sessions – **Action completed as the Portfolio Member for Leisure, Tourism and Maritime has discussed the timetables in full with the MônActif Team.**
- That a quarterly report on the Council's climate related activities and progress towards achieving net zero status be included as a standing item on the committee's agenda, subject to the matter being first considered by the Political Group Leaders meeting. – **Action completed – Matter discussed at the Political Group Leaders meeting held on 2 October, 2025 and it was considered that clear and suitable arrangements are in place as regards to climate change issues and that regular updates be afforded when it is timely and appropriate.**

3 **NORTH WALES REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP BOARD ANNUAL REPORT (PART 9:HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES) 2024/25**

The North Wales Regional Partnership Board Annual Report (Part 9 : Health and Social Services) 2024/2025 was presented for consideration by the committee.

The Portfolio Member for Adults' Services and Community Safety said that the aim of the North Wales Partnership Board is to work collaboratively across health and social care services to help support resilient communities and to ensure a seamless service for individuals that require care and support. He referred that the Board includes members from the 6 local authorities in North Wales, the Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board, North Wales Fire & Rescue Service, North Wales Police, North Wales Ambulance Service and the third sector organisations. He expressed that the Board has developed considerably since its establishment to be an effective equal partnership across the region. Workshops have been established to discuss different elements of the work of the Board which has added value. The 6 Portfolio Members with responsibility for Social Services across the North Wales local authorities also meet on a monthly basis.

The Director of Social Services reported that the Authority benefits from the work undertaken regionally as the Authority is an equal partner within the Regional Partnership Board. He referred to the local projects to Anglesey as is noted within the report. As a partner in the Partnership Board the Authority is able to secure additional grants funding towards projects for the benefits of the residents of Anglesey. This aligns with the priorities set out in the Council Plan 2023-2028. He further noted that the partner organisations can learn lessons as regards to different projects from each other, with every county having now established a similar project as the Cartrefi Clyd project, established by this Authority. £4 million investments have been undertaken in these projects across North Wales.

Mr Jospheh Griffiths from the North Wales Regional Partnership Board said that a number of projects have been established on Anglesey. Canolfan Glanhwfa in Llangefni is an example which has a Dementia support facility. An Extra Care facility has also been supported in Menai Bridge. He referred to the Regional Integrated Fund which is shared between the 6 local authorities and the Health Board and examples of the projects that have benefited from the funding was highlighted within the report.

The following were points of discussion by the Committee:-

- Reference was made that it is noted in the report that the Regional Partnership Board questions its own governance structure. It was noted that there is a lack of regional scrutiny process within the Board. It was suggested that each local authority should scrutinise one of the 6 models of care provision highlighted within the report or a Regional Scrutiny Committee needs to be established.
- Reference was made that it was considered that the report is unclear as to the value the support given from the Board to people requiring additional support within the health and social care provision.
- Reference was made to the Action Plan included within the report. It was noted that there is a lack of costing associated within the projects in the Plan.
- Reference was made that the reports highlighted several successes achieved by the Board, however, questions were raised as to the projects that have not been as successful and whether lessons have been learnt.

The Portfolio Member for Adults' Services responded that he agreed that there are challenges and specific areas needs to be addressed. He noted that the Board is focusing on the longer term than previously. He agreed that there are areas that need to be strengthened and to learn from projects that have not materialise as expected.

Mr Joseph Griffiths, North Wales Regional Partnership Board said that he agreed that the Action Plan, which was attached to the report, can be enhanced with the projected costing next to each project. He noted that the Board focuses on the lesson learnt from projects that have been challenging.

- Reference was made that the Dementia facility located at Canolfan Glanhwfa, Llangefni is exemplary in the support afforded to the residents. Questions were raised as to how the Board will address the distance for people to travel from the north of the Island and from rural areas to the facility afforded.
- Reference was made to the Pilot Scheme for Year 9 pupils in Secondary Schools to attract young people to be interested in a career in social care and health services. Questions were raised as to whether the scheme will continue to be afforded within the Secondary School.

Mr Joseph Griffiths, North Wales Regional Partnership Board responded that the Board is aiming to afford funding to support people to travel from rural area to the Canolfan Glanhwfa, Llangefni. He noted that he would afford details of the project and contact details to the Committee thereafter.

The Head of Adults' Services said that the Authority has appointed three Officers who visits individuals within their home environment and within their communities as regards to Dementia support. He noted that people need to be encourage and supported to integrate with other people. A Dementia Hub has been developed in Canolfan Glanhwfa which will have expertise attending and supporting individuals with dementia diagnosis.

The Director of Social Services said that Anglesey was the first Authority to undertake the provision of a social care and health course for Year 9 pupils. He noted that negotiations were undertaken with Headteachers of the Secondary Schools, in the first instance, before affording the opportunity to pupils and the feedback thereafter was exemplary. The young people appreciated the opportunity to attend these courses which also highlighted the career pathways within social care and the health sector. He further said that the course will be afforded again this year to the Year 9 pupils in the Secondary Schools of the Island. He noted that other professionals within the social care sector will also be attending the Secondary Schools to highlight the work that they undertake and the career path opportunities available.

It was RESOLVED :-

- **That the Committee confirms it has read, understood and taken into account the work that is required to be undertaken by the Regional Partnership Board.**
- **That the Committee notes the work and progress in 2024/2025 on the work areas that are being taken forward through the North Wales Regional Partnership Board.**

4 NORTH WALES COUNCILS' REGIONAL EMERGENCY PLANNING SERVICE ANNUAL REPORT 2024/2025

The North Wales Councils' Regional Emergency Planning Service Annual Report for 2024/2025 was presented for the Committee's consideration.

The Leader of the Council and Portfolio Member for Economic Development said that the Annual Report provides an overview of the service's activity during 2023/24. The Council has emergency planning and response duties under the relevant legislation and regulations and is a principal responder. The Council meets its obligations by collaborating with the North Wales Local Authorities through the North Wales Councils Regional Emergency Planning Service. The report summarises both regional activity during the year regarding incident management and emergency response as well as activity within the six North Wales Local Authorities individually. He noted that this Annual Report includes considerable details of the work undertaken and the purpose of the Regional Emergency Planning Service.

The Regional Manager for the North Wales Councils Regional Emergency Planning Service said that considerable work has been undertaken by the Service due to increase in storms and weather warnings that have occurred and especially Storm Darragh and recently Storm Amy. She noted that significant work has also been undertaken by the Service with the Charter for the Bereaved. The Regional Emergency Planning Service have been an integral part of the Menai Task and Finish Group focusing on the simultaneous closure of the bridges. She expressed that the Service is primarily established to reduce duplication across North Wales and ensure the availability of increased resources for the local authorities.

In scrutinising the Annual Report, the following matters were discussed by the committee:-

- Reference was made to the concerns as regards to the sudden closure of the Menai Suspension Bridge recently. It was expressed that it is evident that Welsh Government is not listening to the concerns of the local community as the bridge closed without warning recently which cause considerable delays; concerns were also expressed that if the Britannia Bridge was also needed to be closed this could cause considerable distribution on the Island to the Emergency Services taking patients to Ysbyty Gwynedd and children and young people in schools and colleges. Concerns were also expressed that the businesses in Menai Bridge are extremely affected by closure of the Suspension Bridge with people avoiding the area. Questions were raised as to whether there is an update as to the timeframe for finishing the work on the Menai Suspension Bridge.

The Leader of the Council and Portfolio Member for Economic Development responded that the Regional Emergency Planning Service is not responsible for the closure of the Menai Suspension Bridge nor the lack of maintenance of the bridge. He reminded the Committee that the Regional Emergency Planning Service responsibility is to plan and manage the situation when both bridges are closed due to storms and weather warnings. He referred to a recent storm when the situation arose for the potential need to close Britannia Bridge and the restrictions on the Menai Suspension Bridge. The responsibility of the Regional Emergency Service is to put in place an Action Plan to address the situation in collaboration with the Local Resilience Forum and the Emergency Services and other organisations to ensure that the Plan addresses the needs and concerns of the residents of the Island.

The Chief Executive said that the Regional Emergency Planning Services' role is to collaborate with partners, respond to issues and impacts and ensure effective community information with residents to ensure that people lives are not in danger. He noted that considerable work has been undertaken with the Authority and the Regional Emergency Planning Service to produce a Draft Action Plan which will be considered by the Local Resilience Forum next month. He noted that the Menai Suspension Bridge is the asset and responsibility of Welsh Government. He expressed that the matter relating to the sudden closure and part opening thereafter of the Menai Suspension Bridge was a matter for discussion at the Extraordinary Meeting of the Isle of Anglesey Council that has been arranged on 28 October, 2025.

- Reference was made to the closure of Holyhead Port from the 7 December, 2024 to 15 January, 2025 due to the damage caused by Storm Darragh. Questions were raised whether negotiations occurred with the Irish Government with regard to the effect of the ferries unable to cross the Irish Sea from Holyhead.

The Leader responded that discussions were taken place with Irish Ministers and Officers together with Stena and Irish Ferries and several other multi-agency organisations due to the closure of the Port in Holyhead. He expressed that he did not consider that the matter was relevant to this Annual Report.

- Reference was made that this Committee needs to undertake work and training on the Equalities Act as it seems that during emergency situations there seems to be differentiate equality process.

The Chief Executive responded that there is a difference when dealing with people during an emergency. He expressed that there are a number of vulnerable people living on the Island and are depended on the Council services and volunteers in an emergency. He said that the aim of the Authority and the Regional Emergency Planning Service is to make sure that when an emergency occurs that people are safe and are afforded support when needed.

- Questions were raised regarding the resilience of the cyber security of the Council.

The Chief Executive responded that cyber security attacks is one of the main risks faced daily by the Authority and two Officers deal with cyber security in the Council to ensure that the correct software is in place and to ensure that the required training for staff is in place. The Authority is working towards conforming with the Cyber Assessment Framework presented by Welsh Government.

Having scrutinised the update report and having regard to the Officer response to the matters raised, the Corporate Scrutiny Committee resolved to note the progress of the North Wales Councils Regional Emergency Planning Service work in 2024/25.

5 FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME

The report of the Scrutiny Manager incorporating the Committee's Forward Work Programme to April 2026 was presented for consideration.

The Committee requested that the IT based business continuity needed to be included in the Forward Work Programme. **OUTCOME OF THE CONSULTATION ON THE PROPOSAL TO RELOCATE YSGOL UWCHRADD CAERGYBI TO A NEW SCHOOL BUILDING FOR 11-18 YEAR OLD LEARNERS**

7 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

It was **RESLVED** to adopt the following:-

“Under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, to exclude the press and public from the meeting during the discussion on the following item on the grounds that it may involve the disclosure of exempt information as defined in Schedule 12A of the said Act and in the attached Public Interest Test.”

8 STRATEGIC OUTLINE CASE - RELOCATE YSGOL UWCHRADD CAERGYBI LEARNERS TO A NEW SCHOOL BUILDING FOR 11-18 YEAR OLD LEARNERS

The report of the Director of Education, Skills and Young People was presented to the Committee for consideration.

The Portfolio Member for Education and the Welsh Language said that the Strategic Outline Case (SOC) contains a case for a new school building for Ysgol Uwchradd Caergybi to replace the current building by September 2030. The new school building would accommodate pupils currently at Ysgol Uwchradd Caergybi and any additional pupils from the catchment area. Details of the funding proposals to build a new school were outlined to the Committee.

The Local Members, invited to the Committee were unanimously supportive of the recommendations put forward as outlined within the report.

Having discussed the Strategic Outline Case and funding proposal to build a new school **it was RESOLVED to recommend to the Executive as follows:-**

- **To approve the Strategic Outline Case (SOC) for the new school building for Ysgol Uwchradd Caergybi;**
- **To approve the submission of the SOC to Welsh Government by 8 January, 2026 for the Business Case Scrutiny Group meeting a fortnight later;**
- **To approve ring fencing capital receipts from the sale of the present Ysgol Uwchradd Caergybi site to repay part of the Council's investment towards the construction of the new school building for Ysgol Uwchradd Caergybi;**
- **To delegate authority to the Director of Education, Skills and Young People in consultation with the Director of Function (Resources)/Section 151 Officer and the Director of Function (Council Business)/Monitoring Officer to amend the SOC if necessary – if the changes do not result in material changes (in terms of policy, principles, financial contribution, risks and harm to third parties);**
- **To ring fence developer funds from housing developments within the Ysgol Uwchradd Caergybi catchment area to contribute towards the cost of the project.**

**COUNCILLOR JEFF EVANS
CHAIR**