

MEETING	Scrutiny Committee
DATE	5 June, 2025
TITLE	Highways, Engineering and YGC Cabinet Member Performance Report
REASON FOR SCRUTINY	An opportunity for Members to discuss and scrutinise the Department's improvement priorities and measures
AUTHOR	Steffan Jones, Head of Highways, Engineering and YGC
CABINET MEMBER	Councillor June Jones

1. Why does it need scrutiny?

For Committee Members to be satisfied that I, the Cabinet Member for Highways, Engineering and YGC, have an understanding of performance issues within the Department.

2. Background / Context

2.1 Background / Introduction

The purpose of this report is to update you on what has been achieved in the area for which I am responsible as Cabinet Member for Highways, Engineering and YGC. This includes outlining the latest with the promises in the Council's Plan; the Department's day-to-day work; along with the latest in terms of the financial savings targets.

We are implementing the Council's Plan 2023-28, and here I report on the progress made up to the end of the 2024/25 financial year in the context of some of the promises that apply to the Department. All issues have been the subject of discussion and scrutiny by me at a recent performance meeting, and I am generally satisfied with the performance of the Department.

2.2 Logic and Justification

2.2.1 Council Plan Project Performance

The projects within the Council's Plan 2023-28 which the Department are leading on are listed in Appendix 1, namely:

1. Extending play and socialising opportunities for children and young people in the county
2. Flood Risk Assessment
3. Clean and Tidy Communities

An overview of what has been achieved in the last year has been highlighted and from this information, you will note that the Department has made good progress against the main milestones of the Plan. I note that there has been some delay in improvement priority 3, 'Extending play and socialising opportunities for the children and young people of the County'. However, we are confident that the project is back on track and the work will be fully delivered using grant funding following the recent success with our bid. Everything else is going as expected.

Looking at the priority of 'Clean and Tidy Communities', the investment in a route optimisation system is an integral part of the Street Scene Service's improvement plan. The investment and review work is also expected to greet the current overspend situation within this Service.

One exciting scheme that is part of the Street Scene Service review is the introduction of the town cleaner service which is now fully operational in Arfon with the intention of extending it to the rest of the County as soon as possible.

2.2.3 The Department's day-to-day work

The Department's performance measures can be found in the contents of Appendix 2. It can be seen that there are 24 measures here which reflect the services/responsibilities of the Department.

The measures are regularly discussed at the Challenge and Support Performance meetings, and it is good to report that 83.3% of the measures are in the green which confirms the good work reported against the performance of the services. You will find that 16.7% are recorded in amber and require further attention as part of the performance and challenging meetings. It is worth noting that not a single measure has been recorded in the red. The Department regularly updates the measures and reviews whether any new measures are needed to reflect any changes within any service.

The Street Lighting Service's performance reports effective procedures showing that the Service can respond to an enquiry regarding a faulty street lamp within a reasonable time and within our target of 5 working days. One issue that has been highlighted is that there may be a fault on 'Scottish Power', side and consequently they can take a number of days to respond. Discussions are ongoing with them to seek better communication in such cases. It can also be seen that the Service is looking at introducing a new measure in relation to the inspection work of street lighting columns which would be beneficial to include as a part of the performance challenge and support meetings.

When looking at the work of the Fleet Service, I draw your attention to the measure of fuel usage. While there is change to be seen here since the introduction of low-emission vehicles (electric), when looking at the whole year, a slight increase has been noted against the total amount of fuel that has been used. Further work will be needed here to highlight what is at the root of this increase.

An excellent year of work has been achieved through the Gwynedd Consultancy service (YGC) and this should be congratulated as we see the expertise of the teams within the service delivering projects of the highest standard which are a combination of work within internal departments, Trunk Road Agency, Welsh Government, and work for several other Authorities across the whole of Wales.

Upon closer inspection of the work of the Flood Service, good progress has been made in seeing the completion of the Local Flood Strategy along with several improvement projects that have been successful in attracting grant funding, resulting in investment in our coastal and inland structures/defences.

2.2.4 External Auditors' Reports

No external audit was carried out during 2024/25.

2.2.5 Savings and Cut Schemes

The 2024-25 Savings schemes total £419,500. The Department has or is on track to achieve £278.5k with £141k either slipping or at risk of not being able to be realised.

3. Consultation

This report has been created based on the information presented at the most recent performance and challenge meeting of the Department of Highways, Engineering and YGC, with the Corporate Director, Head of Department, Service Managers and myself attending this meeting.

Appendices

Appendix 1: Council Plan project milestone progress reports

Appendix 2: Department Performance Measures