

<b>ISLE OF ANGLESEY COUNTY COUNCIL</b>	
<b>Committee:</b>	Standards Committee
<b>Date:</b>	12 June 2025
<b>Title of report:</b>	Democratic Services Update
<b>Purpose of report:</b>	To update the Committee on the work of the service in relation to member support and governance.
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**Background**

1. This report provides an update to the Committee on issues of democratic governance as discussed at its meeting on 6 February and on other related matters.

**Improvement plan**

2. An improvement plan was developed to address the democratic issues raised by the Standards Committee while conducting a review of member registers in 2024. A copy of the improvement plan was shared with the Committee last year and an update on progress was given to the Committee in February.
3. At that time, it was reported that 15 of the 20 actions had been completed and 2 others were continuous. Here is an update on the 3 remaining actions:
  - i) *“Enable Members to complete the Welsh side of the standing register of interests in ModGov if they wish to do so”* - we have applied to the software company for this development. We are the only authority using ModGov that has made such an application, so it will not be treated as a priority. We understand that other nearby authorities do not allow direct access to members and that it is officials who input information on their behalf. In the meantime, our officers will continue to offer to input information on behalf of members in order to mitigate any impact.
  - ii) *“Enable Members to complete their registration of interest form during on-line meetings”* – members can complete the form on paper or electronically and return it to the committee clerk. Members are reminded of the need to complete the form by the chair of each committee at the

beginning of meetings, and the response has been positive this year with forms being returned on time.

- iii) “*Linking webcasts to agenda items*” – completed.

### **Elected Member Annual Reports 24/25**

- 4. A template and guidance were shared with members for completing their annual report on 24 March, and regular reminder messages have been shared since then. The reports were originally requested by May, and we have granted an extension until 6 June.
- 5. To date, 22 reports have been received, compared to 26 received for 23/24. It is likely that one or two additional reports will reach us over the next few days. We will publish the reports on the Council's website in the usual way by the end of June.

### **Register of interests**

- 6. Members are reminded of the need to update their registers within 28 working days of any change in circumstances.
- 7. Members are also required to complete the register and an additional form containing interests of close family members for the purposes of the Council's annual accounts. That work is currently ongoing and the vast majority of members have completed the process.

### **Annual development conversations and training records**

- 8. Quarterly updates on member training are sent to the relevant group leaders. This facilitates the monitoring of attendance at training, particularly mandatory training. The first quarterly update for 25/26 will be sent to group leaders during July. Information about members' attendance in committees will also be shared with leaders on a quarterly basis from now on.
- 9. An annual conversation template was shared with group leaders during the end of February. The purpose of the template was to provide a structure for conducting an annual development review with the members of their groups. The leaders were asked to provide any information about training needs that came out of the conversations, so that it could be included in the member development plan for 25/26. We received information from two group leaders.

### **Recommendation**

- 10. The Committee is asked to note the content of the report.