

ISLE OF ANGLESEY COUNTY COUNCIL	
<b>Committee:</b>	Standards Committee
<b>Date:</b>	22 January 2026
<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.
<b>Author:</b>	Dyfan Sion, Head of Democratic Services

## Background

1. This report provides an update to the Committee on the work of the democratic service in relation to governance and member support.

## Elected Member Annual Reports

2. 23 (66%) of elected member annual reports were received for 2024/25. This is lower than the 26 received for 23/24. Nevertheless, the percentage of reports received compares favourably with other councils across north Wales. It is also important to note that there is no statutory requirement for members to return a report.
3. We will begin the process of reminding members of the need to provide a report for 25/26 shortly. We will also share a template and instructions for completing the report and will follow up with regular reminder messages. The reports will need to be completed and returned by the end of May.

## Register of interests

4. Members are reminded of the need to update their registers within 28 working days of any change in circumstances.
5. The latest reminder message was sent to members on 13 January. It included instructions for updating the online register and offered the option to contact officers if further assistance is required.

## Annual development conversations and training records

6. Updates on member training are sent regularly to the relevant group leaders. This is a way of monitoring attendance in training, particularly mandatory training. Completion levels for mandatory training have improved over recent months as a result of efforts by the learning and development team and the democratic service.
7. An 'annual conversation' process is in place for group leaders and their members. This arrangement enables the group leader to discuss the development of each member and any other relevant issues such as wellbeing and training. We will share the 25/26 annual conversation template with group leaders by the end of February.
8. The content of the conversations are confidential between the group leader and the member, but we ask leaders to share any information about training needs that arise from the conversations so that it can be included in the Council's training and development plans.

## **Engagement**

9. The service consulted with elected members and lay members during the summer of 2025 about Council meeting times. Overall, members were satisfied with the arrangements. The results were discussed and a way forward was agreed at the Democratic Committee meeting in November.
10. A "call-in" session was piloted with the Health Board in November. Arrangements were made for some of the Health Board's senior regional officers to be available to hear members' concerns and answer questions. It was an open and informal session, and the feedback has been positive. As a result, we will arrange another session during 2026.
11. Year 6 pupils from primary schools on the Island have been invited to visit the Chamber and have question and answer sessions with members. Four schools visited the Council in 2025, and arrangements are in place to invite more schools in 2026.

## **Elections**

12. The elections team in the service is working on the statutory timetable for holding the Ynys Gybi by-election on 5 February, and preparatory work has begun for the Welsh Senedd elections in May 2026.
13. A community review of town and community council election arrangements will begin later in January. As part of the review, we will consider whether the number of electoral wards and the number of members on town and community councils

are appropriate. It is good practice to conduct a review before the 2027 local elections.

### **Recommendation**

14. The Committee is asked to note the content of the report.