

Isle of Anglesey County Council

Report to:	Governance and Audit Committee Executive Council
Dates:	3 February 2026 24 February 2026 5 March 2026
Subject:	Amendment to the Constitution – Final Approval of the Council's Annual Governance Statement
Portfolio holder(s):	
Head of service / director:	Lynn Ball, Director of Function (Council Business)/Monitoring Officer
Report author:	Lisa Lord, Interim Legal Services Manager and Deputy Monitoring Officer
Local members:	All

A – Recommendation(s) and reasons

Recommendations

Executive

For the Executive to express a view on the proposed amendment to the Constitution to provide for the final approval of the Council's Annual Governance Statement by the Governance and Audit Committee, in place of the Council.

Governance and Audit Committee

For the Committee to express a view on the proposed amendment to the Constitution to provide for the final approval of the Council's Annual Governance Statement by the Governance and Audit Committee, in place of the Council.

Council

For Council to approve the proposed amendment to the Constitution to provide for the final approval of the Council's Annual Governance Statement by the Governance and Audit Committee, in place of the Council.

Reasons

- The main stages of the preparation and approval process for the Council's Annual Governance Statement are currently as follows:
 1. Internal process (preparation and review)

- A multi disciplinary Governance Group has been reintroduced to support the production of the Annual Governance Statement to be reviewed May.
- Draft submission to Leadership Team May/June.
- Draft published online end June. At this stage details will be sent to all councillors and comments will be invited.

2. Review by Governance and Audit Committee July.
3. Approval, currently by full Council (in sufficient time for publication by no later than 30 September 2026)

- The Annual Governance Statement forms part of the Council's Annual Accounts to meet the requirement to publish a Statement on Internal Control. Council recently approved a change to the Constitution, to delegate approval of the Council's Annual Accounts to Governance and Audit Committee.
- This change was introduced in line with Audit Wales' Annual Plan reflecting the clear goal to bring forward the audit timetable for local government. The authorisation date for 2025/26, is 30/09/2026, which is a month earlier than 2024/25.
- Welsh Government recommends the Statement on Internal Control (which, for this Council is the Annual Governance Statement) is published at the time the unaudited annual accounts are signed and dated by the responsible financial officer.
- This compresses the time available to respond to any matters raised by the Governance and Audit Committee, and to produce an amended, accurate and bilingual version at a time when there are also pressures on production of the Council's Annual Accounts.
- If approval remains with full Council, the 09/2026 meeting will need to be moved or an extraordinary meeting of full Council will be required.
- Delegating authority to the Governance and Audit Committee is a more efficient approval process and keeps the Annual Governance Statement on the same approvals timeline as the Council's Annual Accounts. There is no disadvantage to any councillor, nor to the public, as the reports will still be available in the usual way and at the stage when the draft Annual Governance Statement is published (planned to be end June), a copy will be sent to all councillors inviting comment.
- Against this background, the amendment sought is to paragraph 3.4.8.4.2 –
“The Committee will review and approve the Annual Governance Statement (AGS) ~~prior to full council approval and consider-taking into account~~ whether it properly reflects the risk environment and supporting assurances, including the Head of Audit and Risk's annual opinion. ~~It will consider~~ The Committee will determine whether the annual evaluation for the AGS fairly concludes that governance arrangements are fit for purpose, supporting the achievement of the authority's objectives.”
- Under paragraph 2.15.2.1 of the Constitution “...changes to the Constitution will only be approved by the full Council after consideration of the proposal by the Executive”.

- A report will also be taken to the Governance and Audit Committee, on 3 February 2026, in order to seek the view of that committee on the change proposed.

B – What other options did you consider and why did you reject them and/or opt for this opinion?

Approval remaining with full Council. This was rejected as the status quo is having a negative impact on the efficiency of the process while the proposed change does not disadvantage any party.

C – Why is this a decision for the Executive?

This is not an Executive decision, and the decision will be made by full Council. However under paragraph 2.15.2.1 of the Constitution there is a requirement to provide the Executive with an opportunity to comment on any proposed changes to the Constitution.

Ch – Is this decision consistent with policy approved by the full Council?

Changes to the Constitution (not falling within 3.5.3.6.6 and 3.4.12.6.3) require approval of full Council

D – Is this decision within budget approved by the Council?

There are no budgetary impacts

Dd – Assessment of potential impacts (if relevant)

1. How does this decision affect our long-term needs as an island?

The proposed change supports efficient decision making in relation to documentation required as part of the Council's statutory accounts.

2. Is this a decision that is anticipated to prevent future costs/dependencies on the Council? If so, how?

Not to any significant extent but will obviate the need for an extraordinary meeting of the Council.

3. Have we collaborated with other organisations to come to this decision? If so, with whom?

CIPFA

4. Have the citizens of Anglesey played a part in drafting this way forward, including those directly affected by the decision? Explain how.

No

5. Note any potential impact this decision would have on the protected groups under the Equality Act 2010.

No impact

6. If this is a strategic decision, note any potential impacts the decision would have on those experiencing socio-economic disadvantage.

No impact

7. Please note any potential effects that this decision would have on opportunities for people to use Welsh and not treat the language less favourably than English.

No impact

E – Who did you consult with and what were their comments?

1. Chief Executive / Leadership Team (mandatory)	Leadership Team are supportive of the proposal (20 January 2026)
2. Finance / 151 Officer	Supportive of the proposal which would bring the approval process in line with the Annual Statement of Accounts approval process
3. Legal / Monitoring Officer (mandatory)	No objection to the recommendation
4. HR	N/A
5. Property	N/A
6. IT	N/A
7. Procurement	N/A
8. Scrutiny	N/A
9. Local members	Consultation with the Governance and Audit Committee will take place on 3 February 2026

F – Appendices

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Ff – Background papers (contact the report author for more information)

CIPFA, Delivering good governance in local government: framework addendum (May 2025) Delivering Good Governance in Local Government Addendum Annual Governance Statement
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