

Isle of Anglesey County Council Scrutiny Report

Committee:	Partnership and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee
Date:	9 June 2026
Subject:	Welsh Language Annual Report 2025/26
Scrutiny Chair:	Councillor Sonia Williams

1. Who will be the portfolio holder presenting / leading the report?

Portfolio Holder	Role
Councillor Dafydd Roberts	Portfolio holder for Education and the Welsh Language
Service Officer (Supporting)	Role
Dyfan Sion Ffreuer Owen	Head of Democratic Services Policy and Welsh Language Manager

2. Why the Scrutiny Committee is being asked to consider the matter

This report is presented to the Scrutiny Committee to enable Members to provide effective challenge and assurance in relation to the Council's compliance with Welsh Language Standards.

It provides the Committee with an opportunity to:

- Assess the effectiveness of the Council's arrangements in meeting its statutory duties
- Evaluate the impact of these arrangements on the experience of service users
- Identify areas where performance needs to be strengthened or where progress should be accelerated

The scrutiny process is also critical in ensuring that resources are used effectively and that there is a sustained and clear focus on continuous improvement.

3. Role of the Scrutiny Committee and recommendations

- For assurance
 For recommendation to the Executive
 For information

Recommendation(s): The committee is invited to scrutinise and comment on the Welsh Language Annual Report before submitting it for delegated approval by the portfolio member for publication.

4. How does the recommendation(s) contribute to the objectives of the Council's Plan?

The Welsh language is one of the plan's strategic objectives. It includes commitments to comply with Welsh language standards, provide quality Welsh language services and to develop the use of the language in our administration.

5. Key scrutiny themes

The key areas on which the Scrutiny Committee should focus are:

1. **Impact** – To what extent do the Council's governance arrangements support improving the experience of Welsh language service users?
2. **Workforce** – Does the Council have a clear and realistic plan to develop the Welsh language skills of the workforce over the medium term to support service delivery?
3. **Priorities** – Based on the content of the annual report, what are the most important priorities for the next 12 months?

6. Key points / summary

This report fulfils the statutory requirements of the Welsh Language Standards (No.1) Regulations 2015 by outlining how the Council has complied with its duties over 2025/26, including providing Welsh language services, implementing the language policy, and promoting the use of Welsh across its activities.

The report shows progress in several areas, particularly in terms of training, self-regulation and the promotion of internal and external use of Welsh. At the same time, it highlights the importance of continuing to strengthen the capacity of the workforce and ensure more consistent use of the language across the Council's services.

As a result, the next phase offers an opportunity to build on the foundations already in place by focusing on:

- Further developing the Welsh language skills of staff
- Ensure consistent compliance across all services
- Supporting cultural change to make the use of the Welsh language more natural within the workplace

The Committee is therefore invited to provide a constructive challenge to the content of the report, considering the extent to which the reported progress translates into a practical improvement in the experience of service users and the use of Welsh on a day-to-day basis.

7. Impact assessments

7.1. Has an impact assessment (equality considerations, the socio-economic duty, Welsh language) been undertaken?

Yes

No

If not, please explain why: A full impact assessment is not considered necessary for this report. The report is a retrospective document summarising the Council's performance and activities over a given period, and does not introduce new decisions or changes to policy or service provision.

Should any new proposals or developments arise from the content of the report in the future, they will be subject to an appropriate impact assessment as part of the Council's processes.

7.2. Possible impacts on groups protected under the Equality Act 2010

No new effects, direct or negative, are identified. In general, the activities outlined are likely to have a neutral or positive impact, as they promote linguistic equality and access to services.

Arrangements such as flexible provision, bilingual information and staff training support equitable access for all.

7.3. Possible impacts on those experiencing socio-economic disadvantage (strategic decisions)

No new or negative effects are reported. A neutral or positive impact is expected, as the work supports equal access to services and opportunities to use the Welsh language.

The Council continues to promote inclusion through bilingual provision and staff skills development.

7.4. Potential impacts on opportunities to use Welsh and not treating the language less favourably than English

No negative impacts are reported on opportunities to use the Welsh language or on its status. Rather, the report shows how the Council has maintained and strengthened the use of the Welsh language, supporting an overall positive or neutral impact.

7.5. Potential impact on the Council's Net Zero Carbon target

N/A

8. Financial implications

N/A

9. Appendices

Welsh Language Annual Report 2025 to 2026

10. Report author and background papers

Ffreuer Owen, Policy and Welsh Language Manager

- Welsh Language Policy
- Preparing an annual report on Welsh language standards: Good practice advice document