

ISLE OF ANGLESEY COUNTY COUNCIL	
Committee:	Standards Committee
Date:	18 June 2026
Title of report:	Democratic Services Update
Purpose of report:	To update the Committee on the work of the service in relation to member support and governance.
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Introduction

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. To date, 23 (66%) elected member annual reports have been received for 2025/26. This is the same number that was received in 2024/25 and lower than the 26 received for 23/24. Nevertheless, the percentage of reports received compares favourably with other councils across north Wales. There is no statutory requirement for members to prepare a report.
3. We are in the process of arranging the publication of the reports on the Council's website in the usual way with a view to publishing everything before the end of the month.

Annual development conversations and training records

4. Updates on member training are sent to the relevant group leaders as required. 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.
5. 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. The 25/26 annual conversation template was shared with group leaders in February, and the window has come to an end for this year.

6. In the coming months, training on equality will be offered to members and we will work with those members who have not completed all their mandatory modules.

Member Wellbeing

7. It is possible that some wellbeing issues may arise during development conversations, and Medra counselling service is available to Council members. It is a professional and confidential service available in Welsh or English. Information has been previously shared with members about the service, and we will make contact again the end of June during the national wellbeing week.
8. Elected members are sometimes subjected to threatening behaviour and abusive comments. North Wales Police have an officer who advises on matters concerning elected members, and training on safety is available to members. Information was sent to members in March.

Member Satisfaction Survey

9. Local elections will be held in May 2027 and in preparation for that and the induction period of new Council members from 2027 onwards, we wish to seek members' views on their experiences in order to learn lessons and plan ahead.
10. We will develop a survey over the summer to share with all members of the Council before the end of August for a 6-week period. We will also arrange 1:1 meetings with a sample of members in order to discuss some topics in more detail. The conversations will take place after receiving the surveys to enable us to follow up on some common themes that arise from the responses.
11. The Democratic Services Committee will be updated regularly on the findings and actions. The survey themes will include:
 - a. Overall satisfaction with democratic services
 - b. Support for members
 - c. Practical arrangements
 - d. Methods of communication and information sharing
 - e. Committee services
 - f. Well-being and safety
 - g. Training and skills
 - h. Information technology
 - i. Induction arrangements

Engagement

12. 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 have arranged another session on 16 June.
13. Following a recent member briefing session, it was agreed to plan for a 'call-in' session with North Wales Police on local policing in due course. We will inform members once a date has been arranged.
14. Year 5 and 6 pupils from primary schools on the Island have been invited to visit the Council and have question and answer sessions with members. Five schools have visited the Council in 25/26, and another 3 schools will visit the Council before the summer holidays. Local members are invited to the sessions.
15. The visits are a good way to introduce the island's children to the work of the County Council and to local democracy arrangements. We will review the school visit arrangements over the summer and consider whether any adjustments should be made to the arrangements.
16. The Council is currently conducting a statutory community review on town and community council electoral arrangements. An initial consultation was held between January and March this year, and a response was received from 22 of the 40 community councils. We will be developing draft proposals over the summer and presenting them to the County Council before consulting further in the autumn. Community councils will be kept regularly updated on the steps through the Town and Community Councils Forum.

Recommendation

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