

Isle of Anglesey County Council

Report to:	Council
Dates:	24/09/2026
Subject:	Amendment to the Constitution – To Clarify the Wording of the Terms of Reference of the Governance and Audit Committee
Portfolio holder(s):	Councillor Robin Williams
Head of service / director:	Lynn Ball, Director of Function (Council Business)/Monitoring Officer
Report author:	Lisa Lord – Interim Legal Services Manager/Deputy Monitoring Officer
Local members:	All

A – Recommendation(s) and reasons

Recommendations

Executive (Delegated Decision)

For the Executive to express a view on the proposed amendment to the Constitution changing the term of office for lay members of the Governance and Audit Committee (GAC).

Council

For Council to approve the proposed amendment to the Constitution changing the term of office for lay members of the GAC.

Reasons

- The GAC has undertaken a review of its terms of reference to ensure compliance with relevant legislation and regulations.
- The GAC's terms of reference include the term of appointment for its lay members. In order to ensure compliance with the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2001 and Statutory Guidance it is recommended that a change is made to the terms of reference to clearly state the intended position in relation to mid-term appointments.
- Against this background, the amendment sought is to paragraph 3.4.8.2.2 of the Constitution:

“The Committee will consist of one third of lay members; eight elected members and four lay members, recruited through a public recruitment exercise. Elected members will be politically balanced and will not be members of the Executive, but the Finance

Portfolio Holder is required, as far as possible, to attend all meetings of the Committee. The Chair must be a lay member and the Deputy Chair will not be a member of the Executive or an assistant to its Executive. ~~The lay members will serve for a fixed term to coincide with the length of the Council, i.e. five years, and will serve a maximum of two terms.~~ The lay members are automatically appointed for a period of two consecutive five-year terms. Members, including the lay members, are subject to the Council's Code of Conduct and will declare any interests. The lay members will have equal status to that of the elected members in terms of access to staff and information, for the purposes of the Governance and Audit Committee."

- This amendment clarifies the position in relation to mid-term appointments and maximises the potential time that a lay member may serve within the limits of the Statutory Guidance.
- This amendment will help to ensure that the GAC has sufficient lay members to comply with statutory requirements in relation to the composition of the GAC and should result in a small reduction in the costs of recruitment of lay members by maximising appointments, training, experience and contribution. The same arrangements already apply to lay members of the Standards Committee.

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

No change. This was rejected due to ambiguity and the current inconsistency over the length of term a lay member may serve if recruited mid-term.

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 ensuring that the GAC has sufficient lay members.

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 there should be a small reduction in costs in relation to the recruitment costs for lay members and associated training as terms of office should increase.

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

No

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.

N/A

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)	Considered on 18/08/2026
2. Finance / 151 Officer	A member of the Leadership Team
3. Legal / Monitoring Officer (mandatory)	Co-author of the report and member of the Leadership Team
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 GAC took place on 14/05/2026

F – Appendices

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

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