



CORPORATE JOINT COMMITTEE

19th June 2026

TITLE: Welsh Language Standards Annual Report 2025-26

AUTHOR: Nia Medi Williams, Resources and Operation Manager

Nia Llwyd Lewis, Welsh Language and Translation Service Manager

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1. The purpose of the report is to present the Corporate Joint Committee with Ambition North Wales Welsh Language Standards Annual Report for the period from 28/02/2025 to 31/03/2026. The Annual Report assesses to what extent the Corporate Joint Committee have complied with the Welsh Language Standards and the progress made to meet the statutory requirements.

2. DECISIONS SOUGHT

- 2.1. For the Corporate Joint Committee to approve the Welsh Language Standards Annual Report to be published on Ambition North Wales's website.

3. REASON FOR THE DECISION

- 3.1. Corporate Joint Committees (CJCs) are public bodies established by Regulations made under Part 5 of the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021. They are accountable for complying with the applicable and relevant Welsh Language Standards around service delivery, policy making, operations, promotion, and record-keeping.
- 3.2. In accordance with the Welsh Language Standards, there is a statutory requirement to publish an Annual Welsh Language Standards Report.

4. BACKGROUND AND RELEVANT CONSIDERATIONS

- 4.1. The Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011 is the legislation that created the Welsh Language Standards. The Standards promote and facilitate the use of the Welsh language and ensure that Welsh is not treated less favourably than English in Wales. The Measure also makes Welsh an official language in Wales.
- 4.2. Corporate Joint Committees are subject to the Welsh Language Standards in the same way as their constituent councils and other public service bodies in Wales. The Corporate Joint Committees (Amendment of Schedule 6 to the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011) Regulations 2021 amended the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011 by adding Corporate

Joint Committees to the list of bodies and categories of bodies which must comply with the standards as set by the Welsh Language Commissioner.

- 4.3. The standards ensure appropriate consistency and set clear expectations regarding how Corporate Joint Committee must provide services in Welsh to partners, stakeholders, and the public, as well as how committees must promote the use of the language through their services.
- 4.4. The Corporate Joint Committee received a Compliance Notice from the Welsh Language Commissioner on 16th of August 2024; the implementation date for the standards was 28th February 2025 shortly before the transfer of the Portfolio Management Office and the North Wales Growth Deal into the North Wales Corporate Joint Committee. This is the first full year Annual Report following the compliance notice.
- 4.5. The Annual Report (Appendix 1) was prepared by Resources and Operations Manager (Ambition North Wales) and the Welsh Language and Translation Services Manager (Conwy County Borough Council) who have monitored the Corporate Joint Committee's compliance to the Welsh Language Standards and the promotion of the use of the Welsh language across North Wales Ambition during 2025-26.
- 4.6. Ambition North Wales is expected to publish the Welsh Language Standards Annual Report on its website by 30 June in accordance with the standards. We would expect to receive feedback from the Welsh Language Commissioner's office on the content of the report by autumn/winter.
- 4.7. No complaints were received regarding the Corporate Joint Committee's compliance with the service delivery Welsh Language standards during the reporting period.
- 4.8. We are pleased to report several developments during the year, which are referenced in the Annual Report. Several campaigns have resulted in an increase in the opportunities available for staff to use Welsh language skills and have made it easier for people to use those skills in everyday life. Specific examples of these developments can be found in the report (please view appendix).
- 4.9. During 2026-27, our priorities will be to continue to work on complying with the Welsh Language Standards and further develop the use of the Welsh Language, including:
 - i. Publish a Policy on Awarding Grants, as required by the compliance duties set out in the Welsh Language Standards for the Corporate Joint Committee, which will embed a process for considering the impact that any grant-funded activity will have on the Welsh language;
 - ii. Develop a policy on internal use of the Welsh Language;
 - iii. Internal briefing session for staff on 13th July 2026 around the Welsh Language Standards which have been set for Corporate Joint Committees.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1. None.

6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1. As noted in 3.1, complying with the Welsh Language Standards is a legal requirement for the Joint Corporate Committee as a public body. Approval and publication of the Annual Report assists the CJC in meeting its compliance, transparency and accountability obligations under the Welsh Language Standards
-

STATUTORY OFFICERS RESPONSE:

i. Monitoring Officer:

“Welsh Language Standards is a statutory obligation for the Corporate Joint Committee. The preparation, approval and publication of the Annual Report is therefore an important element of the CJC’s legal compliance framework and provides transparency as to the extent to which the CJC has complied with the applicable standards during the reporting period.

The report properly identifies the statutory context, including the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011, the application of the Welsh Language Standards to Corporate Joint Committees, the Compliance Notice issued to the CJC, and the requirement to publish an Annual Report. The recommendation that the CJC approve the Annual Report for publication is therefore appropriate.

The CJC should ensure that the Annual Report is published by the required deadline and that any feedback received from the Welsh Language Commissioner is considered and, where necessary, built into the CJC’s forward work programme for Welsh language compliance.”

ii. Statutory Finance Officer:

“No comments to add to the report from the perspective of financial propriety.”