

MEETING	Democracy Services Committee
DATE	3 November 2026
TITLE	Update - Work to Upgrade the Chambers
PURPOSE	Provide an update on the work that is being done to upgrade the Chambers
RECOMMENDATION	To note and accept the report.
AUTHOR	Annes Siôn Democracy Team Leader

1. Back in July, you as a Council accepted the Annual Report of the Head of Democracy Services for 2025/26. In that report, it was noted that updating the resources in the Chambers was one of the priorities for 2026/27.
2. It was expressed that the project would follow the necessary scrutiny arrangements to upgrade the equipment in the chambers to enable simultaneous translation, remote access, voting and webcasting of Council meetings from the chambers. It was also noted that we would ensure that the experience for chamber users, the people of Gwynedd who are watching the webcast and Council staff members who are responsible for using the system, would be easy to use and effective.
3. This follows many problems with the resources that are currently available, with some elements dating back to 2012, and sound problems, specifically in Siambr Dafydd Orwig, becoming more prominent over the past few months.
4. The intention of this report is to give you an update on the work.
5. The Cabinet Members have now commissioned a piece of work to look at the market and receive information in terms of quotes to complete the work. To complete the work, a project group was established, which include the Head of Democracy Services, the Assistant Head - Digital and Technology and Officers from the field of Information Technology, Housing and Property and Democracy and Language.
6. Over the past months, the Project Group has been working on a technical specification that will meet all the needs for the chambers. An Event to Engage with the Supplier Market will be held over the coming weeks for potential prospective suppliers to see for themselves the Council's needs for resources in the Chambers. This is a normal step before starting the official tendering process and usually leads to more accurate and detailed tenders.
7. The following next steps are anticipated for delivering the work:
 - Procurement before Christmas
 - Agreeing a contract in January/February
 - preparing to undertake the work by the summer.

We will update you on the preparation work through regular reports to this committee.

8. DECISION SOUGHT

The Democracy Services Committee is asked to note and accept the report.