

Notice of Standards Committee



Date: Tuesday, 17 March 2026 at 6.00 pm

Venue: HMS Phoebe, BCP Civic Centre, Bournemouth BH2 6DY

Membership:

Chair:

Cllr V Ricketts

Vice Chair:

To be elected

Cllr M Andrews
Cllr B Chick

Cllr G Farquhar
Cllr R Pattinson-West

Cllr B Nanovo
Cllr G Wright

Independent persons:

Mr P Cashmore

Mr I Sibley

All Members of the Standards Committee are summoned to attend this meeting to consider the items of business set out on the agenda below.

The press and public are welcome to view the live stream of this meeting at the following link:

<https://democracy.bcpCouncil.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?MIId=6047>

If you would like any further information on the items to be considered at the meeting please contact: Louise Smith, louise.smith@bcpcouncil.gov.uk or email democratic.services@bcpcouncil.gov.uk

Press enquiries should be directed to the Press Office: Tel: 01202 118686 or email press.office@bcpcouncil.gov.uk

This notice and all the papers mentioned within it are available at democracy.bcpCouncil.gov.uk

AIDAN DUNN
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

9 March 2026

**DEBATE
NOT HATE**



Available online and
on the Mod.gov app

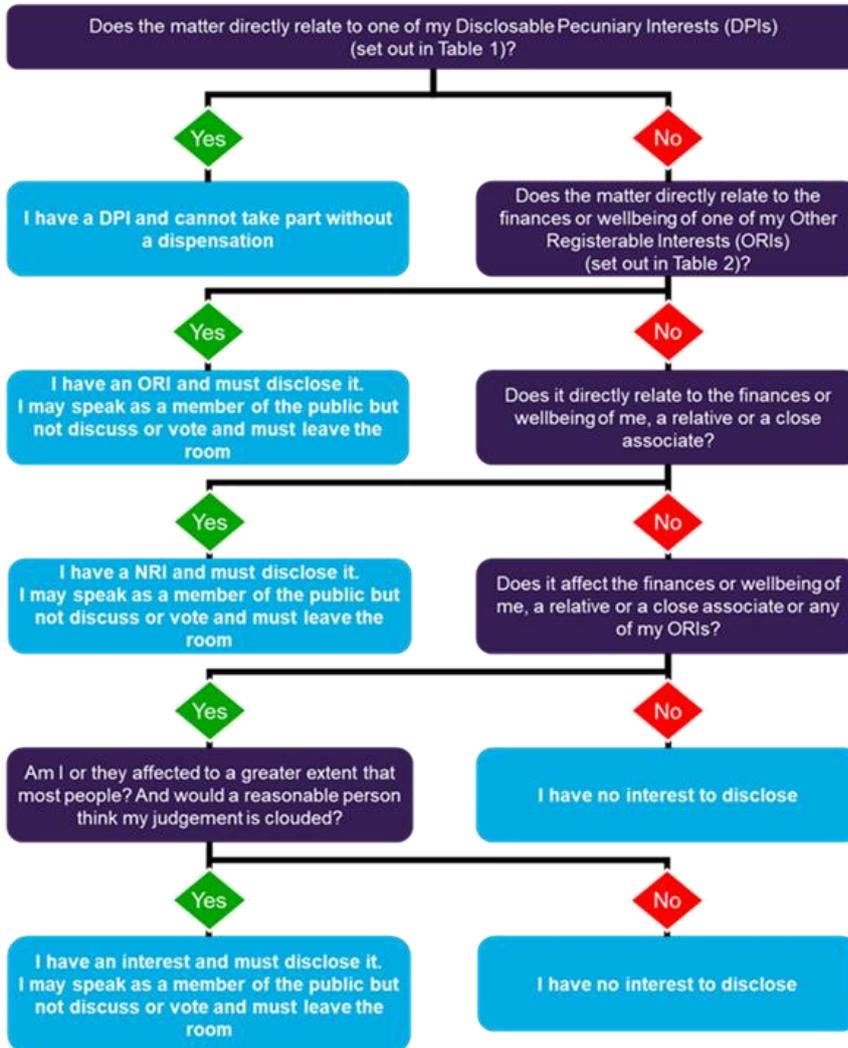


Maintaining and promoting high standards of conduct

Declaring interests at meetings

Familiarise yourself with the Councillor Code of Conduct which can be found in Part 6 of the Council's Constitution.

Before the meeting, read the agenda and reports to see if the matters to be discussed at the meeting concern your interests



What are the principles of bias and pre-determination and how do they affect my participation in the meeting?

Bias and predetermination are common law concepts. If they affect you, your participation in the meeting may call into question the decision arrived at on the item.

Bias Test

In all the circumstances, would it lead a fair minded and informed observer to conclude that there was a real possibility or a real danger that the decision maker was biased?

Predetermination Test

At the time of making the decision, did the decision maker have a closed mind?

If a councillor appears to be biased or to have predetermined their decision, they must NOT participate in the meeting.

For more information or advice please contact the Monitoring Officer

Selflessness

Councillors should act solely in terms of the public interest

Integrity

Councillors must avoid placing themselves under any obligation to people or organisations that might try inappropriately to influence them in their work. They should not act or take decisions in order to gain financial or other material benefits for themselves, their family, or their friends. They must declare and resolve any interests and relationships

Objectivity

Councillors must act and take decisions impartially, fairly and on merit, using the best evidence and without discrimination or bias

Accountability

Councillors are accountable to the public for their decisions and actions and must submit themselves to the scrutiny necessary to ensure this

Openness

Councillors should act and take decisions in an open and transparent manner. Information should not be withheld from the public unless there are clear and lawful reasons for so doing

Honesty & Integrity

Councillors should act with honesty and integrity and should not place themselves in situations where their honesty and integrity may be questioned

Leadership

Councillors should exhibit these principles in their own behaviour. They should actively promote and robustly support the principles and be willing to challenge poor behaviour wherever it occurs

AGENDA

Items to be considered while the meeting is open to the public

1. Apologies

To receive any apologies for absence from Members.

2. Substitute Members

To receive information on any changes in the membership of the Committee.

Note – When a member of a Committee is unable to attend a meeting of a Committee or Sub-Committee, the relevant Political Group Leader (or their nominated representative) may, by notice to the Monitoring Officer (or their nominated representative) prior to the meeting, appoint a substitute member from within the same Political Group. The contact details on the front of this agenda should be used for notifications.

3. Election of Vice-Chair

To elect the Vice-Chair of the Standards Committee for the remainder of the Municipal Year 2025/26.

4. Declarations of Interests

Councillors are requested to declare any interests on items included in this agenda. Please refer to the workflow on the preceding page for guidance.

Declarations received will be reported at the meeting.

5. Confirmation of Minutes

To confirm and sign as a correct record the minutes of the Meeting held on 7 October 2025.

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6. Public Issues

To receive any public questions, statements or petitions submitted in accordance with the Constitution, which is available to view at the following link:-

<https://democracy.bcpCouncil.gov.uk/ieListMeetings.aspx?CommitteeID=151&Info=1&bcr=1>

The deadline for the submission of public questions is midday on Wednesday 11 March [midday 3 clear working days before the meeting].

The deadline for the submission of a statement is midday on Monday 16 March [midday the working day before the meeting].

The deadline for the submission of a petition was Monday 2 March [10 working days before the meeting].

ITEMS OF BUSINESS

- | | |
|--|---------|
| 7. Dispensations Granted by the Monitoring Officer | 11 - 14 |
| <p>To retrospectively report the dispensations granted by the Monitoring Officer for the time period 1 September 2025 to 6 March 2026.</p> | |
| 8. Code of Conduct Complaints - Update | 15 - 30 |
| <p>This report provides Members of the Standards Committee (the Committee) with an update on complaints regarding alleged breaches of the Code of Conduct against councillors received or concluded since the last report to the Committee in October 2025.</p> <p>The Committee is responsible for maintaining high standards of conduct by Members of BCP Council and the Town and Parish Councils, monitoring the operation of the Code of Conduct, and considering the outcome of commissioned independent investigations.</p> | |
| 9. Work Plan | 31 - 32 |
| <p>To consider the Standards Committee's work plan.</p> | |

No other items of business can be considered unless the Chairman decides the matter is urgent for reasons that must be specified and recorded in the Minutes.

BOURNEMOUTH, CHRISTCHURCH AND POOLE COUNCIL
STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Meeting held on 07 October 2025 at 6.00 pm

Present:-

Cllr V Ricketts – Chair

Cllr A Chapmanlaw – Vice-Chair

Present: Cllr S Armstrong, Cllr E Connolly, Cllr G Wright and Cllr C Weight

Also in
attendance Cllr Pattinson-West
virtually: Ian Sibley and Paul Cashmore (Independent Persons)

13. Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr Nanovo and Cllr Pattinson-West joined the meeting virtually forgoing any voting rights.

14. Substitute Members

Cllr Claire Weight substituted for Cllr Nanovo on this occasion.

15. Declarations of Interests

There were no declarations of interest on this occasion.

16. Confirmation of Minutes

In response to a query regarding the mandatory training highlighted in the minutes, the Chair confirmed she would be having a meeting to progress this.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of 8 July 2025 be confirmed as an accurate record and signed by the Chair.

17. Public Issues

The following questions and statements were received from Mr Alex McKinstry.

In relation to Agenda Item 6:

Question 1.

Five complaints have been closed after the councillor who was subject to those complaints failed to apologise as directed by this Committee. The

Constitution is silent on how to proceed in such situations, but the convention until now has been for the non-compliance to be referred to this Committee, after which a report is almost always issued to full Council naming the councillor and sketching out their misconduct. This has been the practice on this Committee since 15 December 2021. Why, then, has there been a change of approach; was the Committee consulted in advance on this new approach (which entails closing the complaints, then inviting complainants to submit further complaints under 8.4 of the Code); and did the Committee support this new approach unanimously? Can you also clarify if this is how matters of non-compliance are to be dealt with henceforward?

Response from the Chair:

Thank you for your question. Since 2019, we have seen a number of complaints taking an excessive amount of time to resolve as a result of non-compliance or a lack of co-operation with the process. You are correct that we have previously resolved to refer non-compliance complaints direct to full council. It was considered by officers that this was still an exhaustive process and, in the view of the former Monitoring Officer, outside the scope of the agreed arrangements which may only determine complaints against alleged breaches. Neither I nor the Committee was made aware of this change of approach and this is not necessarily a view that I take as the LGA guidance on the Code of Conduct states that under the Model Code of Conduct failure to comply with a sanction may of itself be a breach of the Code.

We will consider the action to take against any non-compliance reported within the Code of Conduct Complaints Review Report as part of our deliberations this evening. We are also planning to review our arrangements for handling complaints and this is one aspect that needs to be reviewed as part of that process.

Question 2.

Have any responses been received from the subject councillors in complaints BCP-220, 221, 224, 226, 227 or 228 since the agenda papers were published on 29 September 2025?

Response from the Chair:

Again, thank you for question. Since the publication of the agenda, officers have received responses from the subject councillors relating to complaints referenced BCP-221 and BCP-224.

Question 3.

Noting the seriousness of the upheld allegations in complaint TPC-021 - including bullying, disclosure of confidential information, and attempting to use one's position as councillor to confer an advantage - can we be told which town or parish council was involved?

Response from the Chair:

I can advise that complaint reference TPC-021 related to a Christchurch Town councillor.

In relation to Agenda Item 8:

Question 1.

What was the sum paid to the investigator (or his LLP) for his work on complaint TPC-022, and is this inclusive or exclusive of VAT?

Response from the Chair:

The invoiced sum paid for the investigation of complaint TPC-022 to date, exclusive of VAT, is £7,118.50

Statement received from Mr Alex McKinstry in relation to Agenda Item 6:

The closing of complaints, where a councillor hasn't complied with sanctions, is catastrophic for this Committee. There is now no incentive for errant councillors to comply with the Code of Conduct - other than the possibility that a further complaint might be made against them under Part 8.4 of the Code, "I comply with any sanction imposed on me following a finding that I have breached the Code of Conduct." I have seen nothing to indicate that these subsequent complaints won't be closed either, should non-compliance continue; and of course this new approach means justice postponed - if, indeed, the complainant decides to make a further complaint anyway. I only hope that, should recalcitrance persist, such members will be named at full Council with a detailed description given of their original misconduct, to be entered into the minutes as a permanent record. Nothing in the current Constitution prevents this.

18. Code of Conduct Complaints - Review

The Deputy Monitoring Officer presented a report, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member and a copy of which appears as Appendix 'A' to these Minutes in the Minute Book.

The report provided Members with an update on complaints regarding alleged breaches of the Code of Conduct against councillors received or concluded since the last report to the Committee in July 2025.

The Committee was responsible for maintaining high standards of conduct by Members of BCP Council and the Town and Parish Councils, monitoring the operation of the Code of Conduct, and considering the outcome of commissioned independent investigations.

The Committee discussed the report and there was consensus that there should be tougher sanctions for non-compliance of Committee direction and that those complaints should not be categorised as ‘closed’.

In response to a query, the Chair confirmed that there was going to be a review of the process and the procedure for changing the constitution was outlined. The Chair requested that the review be expedited by the Interim Monitoring Officer to enable the Committee to consider it at its next meeting.

The Deputy Monitoring Officer advised that he would bring a report of non-compliance to the next confidential consultation meeting which was scheduled for the end of October.

In response to a query, it was highlighted that any determinations of complaints considered at the consultation meeting, would be communicated to the complainants within a week of the meeting.

RESOLVED that the outcome of concluded complaints and the progress of those still outstanding be noted.

Voting: Nem. Con.

19. Exclusion of Press and Public

RESOLVED that under Section 100 (A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraphs 1 and 2 in Part I of Schedule 12A of the Act and that the public interest in withholding the information outweighs such interest in disclosing the information.

Voting: Nem. Con.

20. Consideration of a Report in Respect of Code of Conduct Complaint TPC-022

The Committee moved into exempt session to consider this item.

The Deputy Monitoring Officer presented a report, a copy of which had been circulated to each Member and a copy of which appears as Appendix 'B' to these Minutes in the Minute Book.

The report provided the Standards Committee with the conclusion of the investigation following a complaint made about a Councillor of Christchurch Town Council under reference TPC-022. The investigator’s report was attached at Exempt Appendix 1. The investigator concluded that there had not been a breach of the Code of Conduct.

The Committee was asked to consider the report of the Monitoring Officer and the Investigator’s report.

The Committee and Independent Persons discussed the report and were provided with responses to any requests for further information or clarification from the Investigating Officer.

In response to a query, the Committee was advised that the threshold for freedom of expression was set high, and the Interim Monitoring Officer suggested a possible short training session for the Committee on the subject could be beneficial.

The Committee discussed Town and Parish Councils in general and the potential outcome of the Community Governance Review, with the need to ensure any new Town or Parish Councils were supported from the start with appropriate training and policies and procedures.

The Committee returned to public session to provide its resolution.

RESOLVED that in relation to complaint TPC-022, the findings of the independent investigator that the subject Christchurch Town Councillor did not breach the Council's Code of Conduct be accepted and no further action be taken.

Voting: Nem. Con.

21. Work Plan

The Deputy Monitoring Officer advised that due to the departure of the former Monitoring Officer, progression of some of the items listed had been delayed.

It was highlighted of the potential need for an additional meeting following any outcome from the Community Governance Review.

The review of the Code of Conduct procedure was acknowledged as a priority for the Committee.

The meeting ended at 6.55 pm

CHAIR

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STANDARDS COMMITTEE



Report subject	Dispensations granted by the Monitoring Officer
Meeting date	17 March 2026
Status	Public Report
Executive summary	To retrospectively report the dispensations granted by the Monitoring Officer for the time period 1 September 2025 to 6 March 2026.
Recommendations	It is RECOMMENDED that: Standards Committee note the dispensations granted by the Monitoring Officer for the time period 1 September 2025 to 6 March 2026
Reason for recommendations	To support a robust ethical governance framework, the Standards Committee should be informed of decisions made in respect of Councillors and the application of the Councillor Code of Conduct.
Portfolio Holder(s):	Not applicable
Corporate Director	Aidan Dunn, Chief Executive
Report Authors	Robin Watson, Director of Law and Governance and Monitoring Officer
Wards	Not applicable
Classification	For Information

Background

1. On 30 September 2025 a dispensation was granted to all Councillors for the meetings held during September 2025 and October 2025, namely Overview & Scrutiny Board, Cabinet and Council, to enable all to fully and freely participate in the debate on the agenda item relating to the Community Governance Review. The dispensation was granted as many BCP Councillors were Charter Trustees and or Members of existing Town and Parish Councils.
2. On 24 November 2025 a dispensation was granted to all Councillors for the meetings held during the period to 31 March 2026, namely Overview & Scrutiny Board, Cabinet and Council, to enable all to fully and freely participate in the debate

on the agenda item relating to the Community Governance Review. The dispensation was granted as many BCP Councillors were Charter Trustees and or Members of existing Town and Parish Councils.

3. On 22 September 2025, a dispensation was granted to Councillor Kieron Wilson, Cabinet Member for Housing and Regulatory Services and with budget responsibility for the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) for all meetings held during the Municipal Year 2025-2026. This was to enable Councillor Wilson to fully and freely participate in the debate on any agenda item relating to the HRA or related housing income or activity of the Council. This dispensation had been granted for the previous Municipal Year by the Monitoring Officer at the time and was a request by Councillor Wilson for a renewal of the same and which was granted.
4. On 9 December 2025 a dispensation was granted to all Councillors for the Council meeting, to enable all to fully and freely participate in the debate on the agenda item relating to Home to School Transport. The dispensation was granted to ensure all councillors were freely able to fully participate.

Options Appraisal

5. As this report notes the retrospective granting of dispensations there are no alternative options available for consideration. The failure to grant a dispensation would have had the potential to adversely affect the debate of the items in question.

Summary of financial implications

6. There are no financial implications directly arising from this report.

Summary of legal implications

7. A dispensation may be granted by the Monitoring Officer in accordance with s33 Localism Act 2011. It is good practice for these decisions to be reported to the Standards Committee so as to promote integrity and transparency of decision making.

Summary of human resources implications

8. There are no human resources implications arising from this report

Summary of sustainability impact

9. There are no sustainability impact issues directly arising from this report

Summary of public health implications

10. There are no public health implications directly arising from this report

Summary of equality implications

11. There are none directly arising from this report

Summary of risk assessment

12. There are none directly arising from this report

Background papers

Published works

Appendices

There are no appendices to this report.

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STANDARDS COMMITTEE



Report subject	Code of Conduct Complaints - Update
Meeting date	17 March 2026
Status	Public Report
Executive summary	<p>This report provides Members of the Standards Committee (the Committee) with an update on complaints regarding alleged breaches of the Code of Conduct against councillors received or concluded since the last report to the Committee in October 2025.</p> <p>The Committee is responsible for maintaining high standards of conduct by Members of BCP Council and the Town and Parish Councils, monitoring the operation of the Code of Conduct, and considering the outcome of commissioned independent investigations.</p>
Recommendations	<p>It is RECOMMENDED that:</p> <p>the outcome of concluded complaints and the progress of those still outstanding be noted.</p>
Reason for recommendations	<p>This is an opportunity for Members of the Committee to be appraised of details of completed complaints and any outstanding complaints of alleged breaches against the Code of Conduct. This is in accordance with the functions of the Committee and its duty to discharge functions in relation to the promotion and maintenance of high standards of conduct within the Council and amongst Town and Parish Councils within the area.</p>
Portfolio Holder(s):	Not applicable
Corporate Director	Aidan Dunn, Chief Executive
Report Authors	<p>Robin Watson, Director of Law and Governance and Monitoring Officer</p> <p>Richard Jones, Head of Democratic Services and Deputy Monitoring Officer</p>
Wards	Not applicable
Classification	For Information

Background

1. The purpose of this report is to provide a summary and update of completed and ongoing complaints received regarding alleged breaches of the Code of Conduct under the Localism Act 2011 against Councillors for the Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole area, including parish and town councils.

Analysis

2. Details of allegations/complaints in relation to the Code of Conduct are outlined in the table set out in paragraph 7 to this report. Cases which were shown as closed in the previous report have been removed from this report.
3. The adopted arrangements for dealing with allegations of breach of the code of conduct for councillors now provides for an initial assessment by the Monitoring Officer, who may, if appropriate:
 - (a) reject the complaint on the grounds that it falls outside the scope of a valid Code of Conduct complaint;
 - (b) determine that there is no breach of the Code and no further action should be taken;
 - (c) where considered appropriate, enter into an early preliminary and informal dialogue with the complainant and the Councillor complained of, and agree a speedy informal resolution of the complaint; or
 - (d) refer the complaint to the Chair of Standards Committee for consideration.
4. Where complaints proceed to the Chair of the Standards Committee (in consultation with councillors of the Standards Committee, the Independent Persons and the Monitoring Officer (or their Deputy)), the Chair may decide whether:-
 - (a) there is no breach of the Code and no further action should be taken; or
 - (b) there is a potential breach of the Code and informal resolution is appropriate, to include for example mediation, training, apology, advice; or
 - (c) there is a potential breach of the Code and the Monitoring Officer should undertake or commission an investigation into the complaint with a view to a report then being considered by the Standards Committee.
5. The table contained in this report provides information about of the nature of the complaint, the assessment of the Monitoring Officer (where appropriate), the decision of the Chair (following consultation), any informal resolutions determined by the Chair (where applicable), and the status of the complaint at the date of the report. Where a councillor is found to have potential breached the Code, the table includes reference to those categories which were upheld.
6. Specific detailed information regarding pending complaints has not been provided as this may be prejudicial to the conduct of the ongoing complaints process. Personal details have also not been included to protect both the identity of the subject councillors and the complainant, unless specific direction to the contrary has been expressed.

7. Table 1

Reference (Received)	Nature of allegation	Outcome / Decision	Status
BCP-220 26/06/2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Failure to treat others with respect (Upheld) • Harassing a person (Dismissed) • Compromise impartiality of anyone who works for the local authority (Upheld) • Bringing the office of Councillor or the Council into disrepute (Upheld) • Using or attempting to use the position as a Councillor improperly to confer advantage (Dismissed) • Intimidate or attempt to intimidate any person involved in investigation or proceedings 	<p>Initially assessed by the Monitoring Officer and referred to Chair of Committee.</p> <p>Following consultation with committee members and independent persons, the complaint was partially upheld.</p> <p>Subject councillor advised of outcome and requested to comply with several sanctions.</p> <p>The subject councillor failed to comply with the decision of the Chair and a non-compliance report was presented to council on 10/02/2026.</p>	Closed 10/02/2026
BCP-221 20/08/2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Failure to treat others with respect • Compromise impartiality of anyone who works for the local authority • Disclosure of or misuse of information provided in confidence • Bringing the office of Councillor or the Council into disrepute • Misuse of local authority resources and facilities 	<p>Initially assessed by the Monitoring Officer and subject councillor requested to respond to complaint.</p> <p>Complaint assessed at Chair's consultation meeting.</p> <p>Determination – No Breach</p>	Closed 18/11/2025

Reference (Received)	Nature of allegation	Outcome / Decision	Status
BCP-222 13/08/2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Failure to treat others with respect • Bullying a person • Harassing a person • Bringing the office of Councillor or the Council into disrepute • Intimidate or attempt to intimidate any person involved in investigation or proceedings 	Initial assessment of complaint by the Monitoring Officer/Deputy Monitoring Officer. Currently in progress and discussion with Independent Persons.	Pending
BCP-223 17/07/2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Failure to treat others with respect • Bullying a person • Compromise impartiality of anyone who works for the local authority • Bringing the office of Councillor or the Council into disrepute 	Initially assessed by the Monitoring Officer and subject councillor requested to respond to complaint. Complaint assessed at Chair's consultation meeting. Determination – No Breach	Closed 18/11/2025
BCP-224 28/08/2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Failure to treat others with respect • Failure to promote equalities and to not discriminate • Compromise impartiality of anyone who works for the local authority • Bringing the office of Councillor or the Council into disrepute 	Initially assessed by the Monitoring Officer and subject councillor requested to respond to complaint. Subject councillor responded with comments and offered apology to those concerned. Following Monitoring Officer mediation the complaint was resolved informally with no further investigation.	Closed 18/11/2025

Reference (Received)	Nature of allegation	Outcome / Decision	Status
BCP-225 14/08/2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bringing the office of Councillor or the Council into disrepute 	<p>Initially assessed by the Monitoring Officer and subject councillor requested to respond to complaint.</p> <p>Complaint assessed at Chair's consultation meeting.</p> <p>Determination – No Breach</p>	Closed 18/11/2025
BCP-226 07/08/2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Failure to comply with sanctions imposed (Upheld) 	<p>Complaint received subsequent to upheld complaints 199, 203, 205, 207 and 209 and the failure to comply.</p> <p>Following consultation with committee members and independent persons, the complaint was upheld and determined to submit a non-compliance report to Council on 10/02/2026.</p>	Closed 10/02/2026
BCP-227 07/08/2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Failure to comply with sanctions imposed (Upheld) 	<p>Complaint received subsequent to upheld complaints 199, 203, 205, 207 and 209 and the failure to comply.</p> <p>Following consultation with committee members and independent persons, the complaint was upheld and determined to submit a non-compliance report to Council on 10/02/2026.</p>	Closed 10/02/2026

Reference (Received)	Nature of allegation	Outcome / Decision	Status
BCP-228 08/08/2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Failure to comply with sanctions imposed (Upheld) 	<p>Complaint received subsequent to upheld complaints 199, 203, 205, 207 and 209 and the failure to comply.</p> <p>Following consultation with committee members and independent persons, the complaint was upheld and determined to submit a non-compliance report to Council on 10/02/2026.</p>	Closed 10/02/2026
BCP-229 15/09/2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Failure to treat others with respect • Bullying a person • Failure to promote equalities and to not discriminate • Bringing the office of Councillor or the Council into disrepute • Using or attempting to use the position as a Councillor improperly to confer advantage 	<p>Initial assessment of complaint by the Monitoring Officer/Deputy Monitoring Officer. Currently in progress and discussion with Independent Persons.</p>	Pending
BCP-233 16/10/2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Failure to treat others with respect • Harassing a person • Bringing the office of Councillor or the Council into disrepute • Failure to undertake Code of Conduct training 	<p>Initially assessed by the Monitoring Officer and subject councillor requested to respond to complaint.</p> <p>Response received and awaiting consultation meeting.</p>	Pending

Reference (Received)	Nature of allegation	Outcome / Decision	Status
BCP-234 13/10/2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Failure to treat others with respect • Harassing a person • Disclosing confidential information • Bringing the office of Councillor or the Council into disrepute • Using position as a Councillor improperly as an advantage • Failure to undertake Code of Conduct training 	<p>Initially assessed by the Monitoring Officer and subject councillor requested to respond to complaint.</p> <p>Response received and awaiting consultation meeting.</p>	Pending
BCP-235 16/10/2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Failure to treat others with respect (Upheld) • Harassing a person (Dismissed) • Bringing the office of Councillor or the Council into disrepute (Upheld) • Intimidate or attempt to intimidate any person involved in investigation or proceedings (Dismissed) 	<p>Initially assessed by the Monitoring Officer and subject councillor requested to respond to complaint.</p> <p>Following consultation with committee members and independent persons, the complaint was upheld but as it was substantially the same as another complaint no additional sanctions were imposed.</p>	Closed 09/03/2026

Reference (Received)	Nature of allegation	Outcome / Decision	Status
BCP-236 16/10/2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Failure to treat others with respect (Upheld) • Bringing the office of Councillor or the Council into disrepute (Upheld) • Using position as a Councillor improperly as an advantage (Dismissed) 	<p>Initially assessed by the Monitoring Officer and subject councillor requested to respond to complaint.</p> <p>Following consultation with committee members and independent persons, the complaint was upheld but as it was substantially the same as another complaint no additional sanctions were imposed.</p>	Closed 09/03/2026
BCP-237 20/10/2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harassing or bully a person • Discriminate unlawfully against any person • Compromising impartiality • Disclosing confidential information • Improperly using my knowledge gained as a result of Councillor for personal advancement • Bringing the office of Councillor or the Council into disrepute • Using position as a Councillor improperly as an advantage • Use of local authority resources and facilities • Failure to disclose personal interests 	Initial assessment to be completed by the Committee to consider anonymity of the complainant.	Pending

Reference (Received)	Nature of allegation	Outcome / Decision	Status
BCP-250 19/12/2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Failure to treat others with respect (Upheld) • Harassing a person (Dismissed) • Bringing the office of Councillor or the Council into disrepute (upheld) 	<p>Initially assessed by the Monitoring Officer and referred to Chair of Committee.</p> <p>Following consultation with committee members and independent persons, the complaint was partially upheld.</p> <p>Subject councillor advised of outcome and requested appropriate apologies – 13/02/2026</p>	Closed (pending full compliance)
BCP-251 19/12/2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Failure to treat others with respect • Harassing or bully a person • Bringing the office of Councillor or the Council into disrepute 	<p>Initially assessed by the Monitoring Officer and subject councillor requested to respond to complaint.</p> <p>Complaint assessed at Chair's consultation meeting.</p> <p>Determination – Not upheld as no evidence that the councillor was acting in capacity of councillor at the time of the alleged activity.</p>	Closed 09/03/2026
BCP-252 19/12/2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Failure to treat others with respect • Harassing or bully a person • Discriminate unlawfully against any person • Compromising impartiality 	Initial assessment of complaint by the Monitoring Officer/Deputy Monitoring Officer in progress & pending information from the complainant.	Pending

Reference (Received)	Nature of allegation	Outcome / Decision	Status
BCP-253 19/12/2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Failure to treat others with respect • Harassing or bully a person • Discriminate unlawfully against any person • Compromising impartiality • Disclosing confidential information • Improperly using my knowledge gained as a result of Councillor for personal advancement 	Initial assessment of complaint by the Monitoring Officer/Deputy Monitoring Officer in progress & pending information from the complainant.	Pending
BCP-254 19/12/2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Failure to treat others with respect • Harassing or bully a person • Discriminate unlawfully against any person • Compromising impartiality • Improperly using my knowledge gained as a result of Councillor for personal advancement • Bringing the office of Councillor or the Council into disrepute • Use of position improperly • Misuse of Council resources • Failure to undertake Code of Conduct training • Failure to disclose personal interests 	Initial assessment of complaint by the Monitoring Officer/Deputy Monitoring Officer in progress & pending information from the complainant.	Pending

Reference (Received)	Nature of allegation	Outcome / Decision	Status
BCP-255 19/12/2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Failure to treat others with respect • Harassing or bully a person • Discriminate unlawfully against any person • Bringing the office of Councillor or the Council into disrepute • Use of position improperly • Failure to undertake Code of Conduct training 	<p>Initially assessed by the Monitoring Officer and subject councillor requested to respond to complaint.</p> <p>Complaint assessed at Chair's consultation meeting.</p> <p>Determination – Not upheld as no evidence that the councillor was acting in capacity of councillor at the time of the alleged activity.</p>	Closed 09/03/2026
BCP-256 19/12/2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Failure to treat others with respect • Discriminate unlawfully against any person • Compromising impartiality • Bringing the office of Councillor or the Council into disrepute 	<p>Initially assessed by the Monitoring Officer and subject councillor requested to respond to complaint.</p> <p>Complaint assessed at Chair's consultation meeting.</p> <p>Determination – No Breach</p>	Closed 13/02/2026
BCP-257 19/12/2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Failure to treat others with respect • Harassing or bully a person • Discriminate unlawfully against any person 	<p>Initially assessed by the Monitoring Officer and subject councillor requested to respond to complaint.</p> <p>Complaint assessed at Chair's consultation meeting.</p> <p>Determination – Not upheld as no evidence that the councillor was acting in capacity of councillor at the time of the alleged activity.</p>	Closed 09/03/2026

Reference (Received)	Nature of allegation	Outcome / Decision	Status
BCP-258 19/12/2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Failure to treat others with respect (Upheld) • Harassing or bully a person (Dismissed) • Discriminate unlawfully against any person (Dismissed) • Bringing the office of Councillor or the Council into disrepute (Upheld) • Use of position improperly (Dismissed) 	<p>Initially assessed by the Monitoring Officer and referred to Chair of Committee.</p> <p>Following consultation with committee members and independent persons, the complaint was partially upheld.</p> <p>Subject councillor advised of outcome and requested appropriate apologies – 13/02/2026</p>	Closed (pending full compliance)
BCP-259 02/12/2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compromising impartiality • Preventing legal entitlement of information • Bringing the office of Councillor or the Council into disrepute • Failure to undertake Code of Conduct training • Not cooperating with any code of conduct investigation • Use of position improperly • Intimidate those involved with investigations or proceedings • Not complying with sanctions • Not disclosing interests 	Assessed by the Monitoring Officer with a determination that there is no breach of the Code and no further action should be taken.	Closed
BCP-260 04/12/2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Predetermination & general allegations of breach of Nolan Principles. 	<p>Initial assessment of complaint by the Monitoring Officer/Deputy Monitoring Officer in progress.</p> <p>Response received and awaiting consultation meeting.</p>	Pending

Reference (Received)	Nature of allegation	Outcome / Decision	Status
BCP-261 22/01/2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Failure to treat others with respect • Harassing or bully a person • Disclosing confidential information • Bringing the office of Councillor or the Council into disrepute • Improper use of Council resources • Failure to undertake Code of Conduct training • Not cooperating with any code of conduct investigation • Not complying with sanctions 	<p>Initial assessment of complaint by the Monitoring Officer/Deputy Monitoring Officer in progress.</p> <p>Awaiting supporting evidence from complainant.</p>	Pending
BCP-262 06/09/2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Failure to treat others with respect • Disclosing confidential information • Bringing the office of Councillor or the Council into disrepute • Use of position improperly 	Referred to committee and awaiting to be considered.	Pending

Reference (Received)	Nature of allegation	Outcome / Decision	Status
Town and Parish Council Complaints			
TPC-022 08/07/2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Failure to treat others with respect • Bullying a person • Harassing a person • Bringing the office of Councillor or the Council into disrepute • Using or attempting to use the position as a Councillor improperly to confer advantage 	<p>Initially assessed by the Monitoring Officer and referred to Chair of Committee.</p> <p>Following consultation with committee members and independent persons, the complaint has been referred to an independent investigator to review.</p> <p>The outcome of the independent investigation was reported to the last meeting.</p> <p>Determination – No Breach</p>	Closed 07/10/2025

Summary of financial implications

8. There are no financial implications arising from this report.

Summary of legal implications

9. The Council has a legal duty to respond to complaints made against councillors of allegations of a breach of the Code of Conduct. The Council has adopted procedures for handling complaints.

Summary of human resources implications

10. There are no direct manpower implications arising from this report, however, the Committee will be aware that the handling and processing of complaints is resource intensive. A high volume of complaints could require the need for additional resources. It is therefore critical that the committee continuously seeks to promote and maintain high standards of conduct by all councillors to help limit the number of complaints.

Summary of sustainability impact

11. There are no sustainability implications arising from this report.

Summary of public health implications

12. There are no public health and wellbeing implications arising from this report.

Summary of equality implications

13. This report is reporting on the outcome of complaints made against councillors for alleged breaches of the Councillor's Code of Conduct and consequently there are no direct equalities implications arising from this report. The Code of Conduct includes a duty upon all councillors to promote equalities and to not discriminate unlawfully against any person. Equality implications are considered as an integral part of the complaints process.

Summary of risk assessment

14. There are no direct risks associated with this report.

Background papers

Records of complaints received by the Council under the references referred to in Table 1. These records contain exempt information (Categories 1 (Information relating to any individual) and 2 (Information which is likely to reveal the identity of an individual)).

Appendices

There are no appendices to this report.

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Standards Committee Work Plan and Schedule of Meetings

Subject	Meeting Date
Complaints update	Standing Item
Review of the Code of Conduct Complaints Procedure	Priority- January 2026
Review of the Officer Member Protocol	Date to be confirmed
Review of gifts and hospitality	Date to be confirmed
Review of the Register of Interests	Date to be confirmed
Review of mandatory training including code of conduct training	Date to be confirmed
Standards Committee Annual Report to Council	Summer 2026
Review of Councillors Induction Programme	Date to be confirmed
Impact of Community Governance Review	Date to be confirmed
Communication Strategy on Standards within Town and Parish Councils	From October 2025
Refresher Code of Conduct Training	TBC

Future Meeting Dates: -

Tuesday 7 July 2026

Tuesday 6 October 2026

Tuesday 19 January 2027

Tuesday 16 March 2027

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