

Joint Standards Committee

- To:** Councillor Carol Runciman (Chair), Fisher, Pavlovic,
Kent and Steward (CYC Members)
- Councillors Waudby (Vice-Chair), Chambers and
Geogheghan-Breen (Parish Council Members)
- Roseleen Mazza (Independent Person)
- Date:** Thursday, 19 March 2026
- Time:** 4.00 pm
- Venue:** West Offices, Station Rise, York

AGENDA

- 1. Apologies for Absence**
To receive and note apologies for absence.
- 2. Declarations of Interest** (Pages 7 - 8)
At this point in the meeting, Members and co-opted members are asked to declare any disclosable pecuniary interest, or other registerable interest, they might have in respect of business on this agenda, if they have not already done so in advance on the Register of Interests. The disclosure must include the nature of the interest.

An interest must also be disclosed in the meeting when it becomes apparent to the member during the meeting.

[Please see the attached sheet for further guidance for Members.]

3. Exclusion of Press and Public

To consider the exclusion of the press and public from the meeting during consideration of exempt Annexes A(ii) and B (ii) to Agenda Item 10 (Monitoring report in Respect of Complaints Received) on the grounds that it contains information which is likely to reveal the identity of individuals.

This information is classed as exempt under paragraph 2 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as revised by The Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006).

4. Minutes (Pages 9 - 12)

To approve and sign the minutes of the meeting of the Joint Standards Committee held on 22 January 2026.

5. Minutes of Sub-Committees (Pages 13 - 20)

To approve and sign the minutes of the following meetings of the Joint Standards Sub-Committees:

- Joint Standards Assessments, 28 January 2026
- Joint Standards Assessments, 25 February 2026
- Joint Standards Assessments, 5 March 2026

6. Public Participation

At this point in the meeting members of the public who have registered to speak can do so. Members of the public may speak on agenda items or on matters within the remit of the committee.

Please note that our registration deadlines are set as 2 working days before the meeting, in order to facilitate the management of public participation at our meetings. The deadline for registering at this meeting is **5:00pm on Tuesday, 17 March 2026.**

To register to speak please visit www.york.gov.uk/AttendCouncilMeetings to fill in an online registration form. If you have any questions about the registration form or the meeting, please contact Democratic Services. Contact details can be found at the foot of this agenda.

Webcasting of Public Meetings

Please note that, subject to available resources, this meeting will be webcast including any registered public speakers who have given their permission. The meeting can be viewed live and on demand at www.york.gov.uk/webcasts.

- 7. Annual Report for 2025/2026** (Pages 21 - 36)
Members will consider the draft Annual Report of the Joint Standards Committee.
- 8. Review of Work Plan** (Pages 37 - 38)
To consider the Committee's work plan for the current year and decide whether any amendments or additions are required.
- 9. Urgent Business**
Any other business which the Chair decides is urgent under the Local Government Act 1972.
- 10. Monitoring Report on Complaints Received** (Pages 39 - 64)
To receive a routine update report on recent standards complaints.

Democracy Officer:

Jane Meller

Contact Details:

Telephone: (01904) 555209

Email: jane.meller@york.gov.uk

For more information about any of the following please contact the Democratic Services Officer responsible for servicing this meeting:

- Registering to speak
- Business of the meeting
- Any special arrangements
- Copies of reports

Contact details are set out above.

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我們也用您們的語言提供這個信息 (Cantonese)

এই তথ্য আপনার নিজের ভাষায় দেয়া যেতে পারে। (Bengali)

Ta informacja może być dostarczona w twoim własnym języku. (Polish)

Bu bilgiyi kendi dilinizde almanız mümkündür. (Turkish)

یہ معلومات آپ کی اپنی زبان (بولی) میں بھی مہیا کی جاسکتی ہیں۔ (Urdu)

Declarations of Interest – guidance for Members

- (1) Members must consider their interests, and act according to the following:

Type of Interest	You must
Disclosable Pecuniary Interests	Disclose the interest, not participate in the discussion or vote, and leave the meeting <u>unless</u> you have a dispensation.
Other Registrable Interests (Directly Related) OR Non-Registrable Interests (Directly Related)	Disclose the interest; speak on the item <u>only if</u> the public are also allowed to speak, but otherwise not participate in the discussion or vote, and leave the meeting <u>unless</u> you have a dispensation.
Other Registrable Interests (Affects) OR Non-Registrable Interests (Affects)	Disclose the interest; remain in the meeting, participate and vote <u>unless</u> the matter affects the financial interest or well-being: (a) to a greater extent than it affects the financial interest or well-being of a majority of inhabitants of the affected ward; and (b) a reasonable member of the public knowing all the facts would believe that it would affect your view of the wider public interest. In which case, speak on the item <u>only if</u> the public are also allowed to speak, but otherwise do not participate in the discussion or vote, and leave the meeting <u>unless</u> you have a dispensation.

- (2) Disclosable pecuniary interests relate to the Member concerned or their spouse/partner.
- (3) Members in arrears of Council Tax by more than two months must not vote in decisions on, or which might affect, budget calculations,

and must disclose at the meeting that this restriction applies to them. A failure to comply with these requirements is a criminal offence under section 106 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992.

City of York Council

Minutes

Meeting	Joint Standards Committee
Date	22 January 2026
Present	Councillors Fisher, Runciman (Chair), Kent and Steward Parish Councillors Waudby (Vice-Chair) and Chambers Ms R Mazza (Independent Person)
Apologies	Councillor Pavlovic and Geogheghan-Breen

25. Apologies for Absence (4.02 pm)

Apologies were received and noted from Parish Councillor Breen and Councillor Pavlovic.

26. Declarations of Interest (4.02 pm)

Members were asked to declare any personal interests not included on the Register of Interests, or any prejudicial interests or disclosable pecuniary interests which they might have in respect of business on the agenda. None were declared.

27. Exclusion of Press and Public (4.03 pm)

Resolved: That the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the exempt versions of Annexes A and B to Agenda Item 9 (Monitoring Report in Respect of Complaints Received), on the grounds that they contain information likely to reveal the identity of individuals, which is classed as exempt under Paragraph 2 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006).

28. Minutes (4.03 pm)

Resolved: That the minutes of the meeting of the Joint Standards Committee held on 1 December 2025 be approved as a correct record.

Chair's statement

The Chair made a statement regarding her comments at the last meeting, where she had said that one of the committee's biggest problems was someone who was not whipped. She recognised that her choice of words had caused offence to the council's single independent member and apologised for this. She clarified that her comment was in the context of how discussions around how Group Leaders could be used to encourage a subject member to engage with training following an identified breach of the member code of conduct. She confirmed that, as her comments might appear to demonstrate a bias, she would step back from any future standards matter involving the present independent member.

29. Public Participation (4.04 pm)

It was reported that there had been no registrations to speak at the meeting under the Council's Public Participation Scheme.

30. Review of Allegation Handling Arrangements Update (4.05 pm)

The Head of Legal Services introduced the report, explaining the most recent changes to the draft Appendix 29. There were three key areas that had been amended since the last draft: clarification of the role of the Independent Person, the time limit on a speaker at a hearing, and changes to the newly introduced register of decisions. It was proposed to raise the time limit for speakers at a hearing to 10 mins, with provision to allow more time at the discretion of the Chair. It was also proposed to allow the committee to consider any previous informal resolutions or breach decisions relating to a subject member to help identify patterns of behaviour and to ensure that any sanction took into account whether the breach had occurred before, the number of times it had occurred, and any previous response to imposed sanctions.

Members were unanimously in favour of the proposed changes, and it was

Resolved: That the committee recommend to Full Council the changes to the existing procedure and the adoption of the new draft Appendix 29.

Reason: To address the current issues with the case handling procedures.

31. Review of Work Plan (4.26 pm)

Members considered the committee's work plan for the current municipal year.

Resolved: That the work plan be approved subject to the following additions:

19 March 2026

- Member Development and Induction, report of Working Group.
- Parish Liaison

Reason: To ensure that the committee has a planned programme of work in place.

32. Monitoring Report on Complaints Received (4.28 pm)

Members considered a report which provided an update on current business as regards complaints. The Head of Democratic Services drew the committee's attention to appendix C, which provided a record of the actions enacted over the last 12 months as requested by members at the last meeting.

Resolved: That the report be noted.

Reason: To ensure that the committee is aware of current levels of activity.

Cllr C Runciman, Chair

The meeting started at 4.01 pm and finished at 4.39 pm.

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City of York Council

Committee Minutes

Meeting	Joint standards committee - Assessments Sub-committee
Date	28 January 2026
Present	Councillors Kent, Runciman and Steward (City Council Members) Rose Mazza (Independent Member)
Officers in Attendance	Julie Gallagher (Deputy Monitoring Officer) Chris Coss (Head of Legal Services)

21. Appointment of Chair (10:00am)

That Councillor Runciman be appointed as Chair of the meeting.

22. Apologies for Absence (10:00am)

There were no apologies.

23. Declarations of Interest (10:00am)

Members were asked to declare at this point in the meeting any disclosable pecuniary interests or other registerable interests they might have in respect of business on the agenda, if they had not already done so in advance on the Register of Interests.

Cllr Steward declared his membership of the Campaign for Real Ale, as a personal interest.

24. Exclusion of Press and Public (10:01am)

Resolved: That the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the private report at Agenda Item 5 (Code of Conduct Complaint received in respect of a City of York Councillor), on the grounds that it contains information relating to individuals and information likely to reveal the identity of individuals, which is classed as exempt

under paragraphs 1 and 2 of Schedule 12A to Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006.

[Note: following the above resolution, the Deputy Monitoring Officer confirmed that she had nothing further to add in respect of the public reports in the agenda papers, and the remainder of the meeting took place in private session.]

25. Code of Conduct Complaint Received in Respect of a City of York Councillor (10:01am)

Members considered a report which set out a Code of Conduct complaint received in respect of a City Councillor. Details of the complaint were presented in the private report referred to in Minute 24 above.

Members were asked to decide whether to:

- A. rule that the complaint is out of scope, or
- B. rule that the complaint is in scope and choose either to:
 - i) take no further action
 - ii) seek to resolve the matter informally, or
 - iii) refer the matter for investigation.

Having considered all the information provided, and the advice of the Independent Person at the meeting, it was

Resolved: That Option A be approved.

Reason: The Sub-Committee considers that this matter is not a breach of the Code of Conduct because the behaviour complained about is not capable of constituting impartiality or impropriety.

Cllr C Runciman, Chair

[The meeting started at 10.00 am and finished at 10.20 am].

Meeting	Joint Standards Committee - Assessments Sub-Committee
Date	25 February 2026
Present	Councillors Kent, Runciman and Steward (City Council Members)
Apologies	Ms R Mazza (Independent Member)
Officers in Attendance	Julie Gallagher (Deputy Monitoring Officer) Chris Coss (Head of Legal Services)

26. Appointment of Chair (3:05pm)

Resolved: That Councillor Runciman be appointed as Chair of the meeting.

27. Apologies for Absence (3:05pm)

There were no apologies. The Independent Person was unable to attend the meeting but her views were sought and considered by members.

28. Declarations of Interest (3:05pm)

Members were asked to declare at this point in the meeting any disclosable pecuniary interests or other registerable interests they might have in respect of business on the agenda, if they had not already done so in advance on the Register of Interests. None were declared.

29. Exclusion of Press and Public (3:05pm)

Resolved: That the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the private report at Agenda Item 5 (Code of Conduct Complaint received in respect of a City of York Councillor), on the grounds that it contained information relating to individuals and information likely to reveal the identity of individuals, which is classed as exempt

under paragraphs 1 and 2 of Schedule 12A to Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006.

[Note: following the above resolution, the Deputy Monitoring Officer confirmed that she had nothing further to add in respect of the public reports in the agenda papers, and the remainder of the meeting took place in private session.]

30. Code of Conduct Complaint Received in Respect of a City of York Councillor (3:06pm)

Members considered a report which set out a Code of Conduct complaint received in respect of a City of York Councillor. Details of the complaint were presented in the private report referred to above.

Members were asked to decide whether to:

- A. rule that the complaint is out of scope, or
- B. rule that the complaint is in scope and choose either to:
 - i) take no further action
 - ii) seek to resolve the matter informally, or
 - iii) refer the matter for investigation.

Having considered all the information provided, and the advice of the Independent Person at the meeting, it was

Resolved: That Option B(ii) be approved.

Reason: The assessment sub-committee concluded that the matters complained of were capable of constituting breaches of the Member Code of Conduct and the complaint was consequently in scope.

The sub-committee concluded that inappropriate language had been used, but that this was symptomatic of a wider issue within current political discourse. It was decided that an advisory note be issued to all political groups and to the independent member.

Cllr C Runciman, Chair

[The meeting started at 3.05 pm and finished at 3.39 pm].

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Meeting	Joint Standards Committee - Assessments Sub-Committee
Date	5 March 2026
Present	Councillors Pavlovic, Runciman and Steward
Apologies	Ms R Mazza, Independent Person
Officer Present	Chris Coss, Deputy Monitoring Officer

31. Appointment of Chair (11.02 am)

That Cllr Runciman be appointed as Chair of the meeting.

32. Apologies for Absence (11.02 am)

The Independent Person had given her apologies. Her views were contained in the agenda pack and were considered by members.

33. Declarations of Interest (11.02 am)

Members were asked to declare at this point in the meeting any disclosable pecuniary interests or other registerable interests they might have in respect of business on the agenda, if they had not already done so in advance on the Register of Interests.

None were declared.

34. Exclusion of Press and Public (11.03 am)

Resolved: That the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the private reports at Agenda Item 5 (Code of Conduct Complaints received in respect of a City of York Councillor), on the grounds that they contain information relating to individuals and information likely to reveal the identity of individuals, which is classed as exempt under paragraphs 1 and 2 of Schedule 12A to

Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006.

[Note: following the above resolution, the remainder of the meeting took place in private session.]

35. Code of Conduct Complaint Received in Respect of a City of York Councillor (11.03 am)

Members considered a report which set out a Code of Conduct complaint received in respect of a City of York Councillor. Details of the complaint were presented in the private report referred to above.

Members were asked to decide whether to:

- A. rule that the complaint is out of scope, or
- B. rule that the complaint is in scope and choose either to:
 - i) take no further action
 - ii) seek to resolve the matter informally, or
 - iii) refer the matter for investigation.

Having considered all the information provided, and the written advice of the Independent Person, it was

Resolved: That Option B(i) be approved.

Reason: The Sub-Committee considered that any further action would be disproportionate.

Cllr C Runciman, Chair

[The meeting started at 11.02 am and finished at 11.41 am].



Joint Standards Committee**19 March 2026**

Report of the Monitoring Officer

Annual Report for 2025/2026**Summary**

1. This report provides the Joint Standards Committee with a draft Annual Report for 2025/2026.

Background

2. It is good practice for the Committee to prepare an Annual Report at the start of each municipal year, setting out work undertaken by the Joint Standards Committee during the previous year.
3. The report can be presented to Full Council at the meeting on 16 July 2026 subject to finalisation. This will allow it to be presented alongside the Annual Report from Audit & Governance Committee.
4. The breakdown of complaints received during the municipal year has been calculated to date. A full year comparison is not yet available due the timing of the report, but the figures are sufficient to demonstrate trends and will be a like for like comparison to last year's report which was also prepared in March. Complaints will continue to be recorded.
5. As well as the breakdown of complaints, the report also provides an update of the other work of the committee, including member training and the redraft of Appendix 29, Joint Standards Committee procedures.
6. A draft of the annual report is attached at Annex A.

Implications**Financial**

7. Not applicable to this report.

Human Resources (HR)

- 8. Not applicable to this report.

Equalities

- 9. The Equality Act 2010 places specific duties on Local Authorities, and Members, including Members of the Joint Standards Committee who play a vital role in ensuring that equality issues are integral to the aims and performance of a Local Authority. Providing an Annual Report of work undertaken by the Committee, providing an overview of the Code of Conduct complaints received and reviewing the procedures in place for such complaints ensures that all Members adhere to the principles of the Act.

Legal

- 10. As detailed within the report.

Crime and Disorder, Information Technology and Property

- 11. Not applicable to this report.

Recommendations

- 12. Members are recommended to note the report and provide their views on the draft Report, ahead of it being presented to Full Council later in the year.

Author & Officer Responsible for the report:
Julie Gallagher
Deputy Monitoring Officer
julie.gallagher@york.gov.uk

Chief Officer Responsible for the report:
Bryn Roberts
Director of Governance & Monitoring Officer

Report Approved

Date 11 March 2026

Specialist Implications Officer(s):

Wards Affected:

All

For further information please contact the author of the report.

Annexes

- Annex A – Draft Annual Report 2025/26

Background Papers:

- City of York Council Constitution

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19 March 2026

Annual report for 2025/2026

Foreword from the Chair of the Joint Standards Committee

[To be inserted]

Cllr C Runciman
Chair of Joint Standards Committee

Membership of the Committee

1. The Committee would like to thank all its members for supporting and attending the meetings during this year. They especially wish to acknowledge the advice and support freely given to the Committee by Mr Joe Leigh, who retired as an Independent Person in September 2025. At their first meeting of the municipal year, the Committee appointed Councillor Carol Runciman as the Chair and Parish Councillor Mark Waudby as the Vice Chair.

City of York Council:

- Councillor Tony Fisher
- Councillor Jenny Kent
- Councillor Michael Pavlovic
- Councillor Carol Runciman
- Councillor Chris Steward

Parish Councils:

- Councillor Christopher Chambers
- Councillor Diane Geogheghan-Breen
- Councillor Mark Waudby

Independent Persons

- Mr Joe Leigh (until September 2025)
- Ms Rose Mazza

2. Following a successful phase of recruitment, two Independent Persons have been recruited to the Joint Standards Committee, their appointment is expected to be confirmed at the Full Council meeting, 26 March 2026.

Complaints

3. The Council received the following Code of Conduct complaints in the Municipal year May 2025 to May 2026:

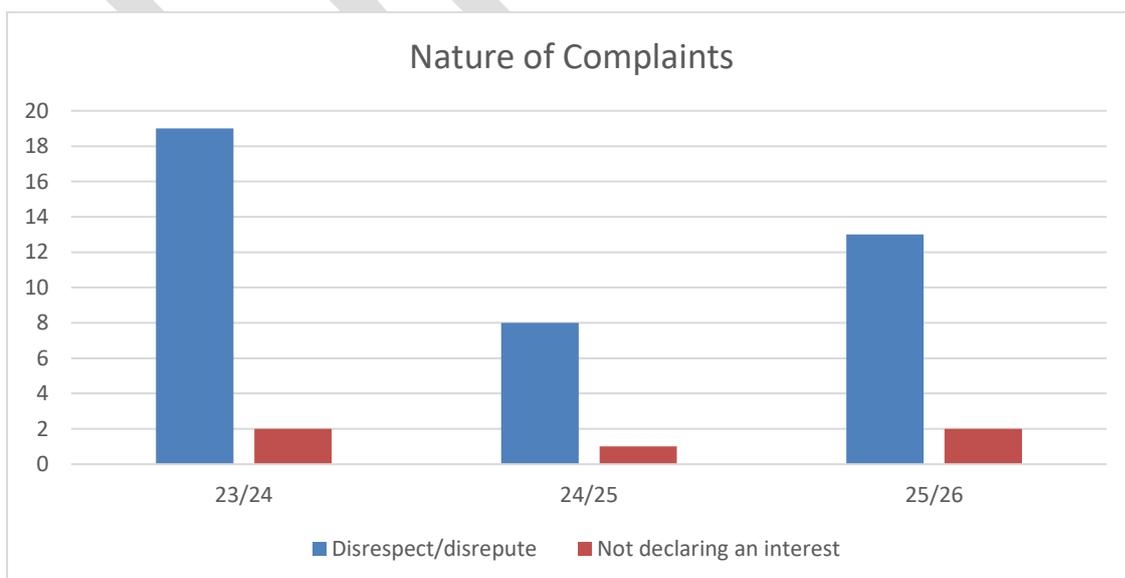
Total number of complaints made that met the initial threshold: 15

Of those, number closed: 12

Number of current year complaints ongoing: 3

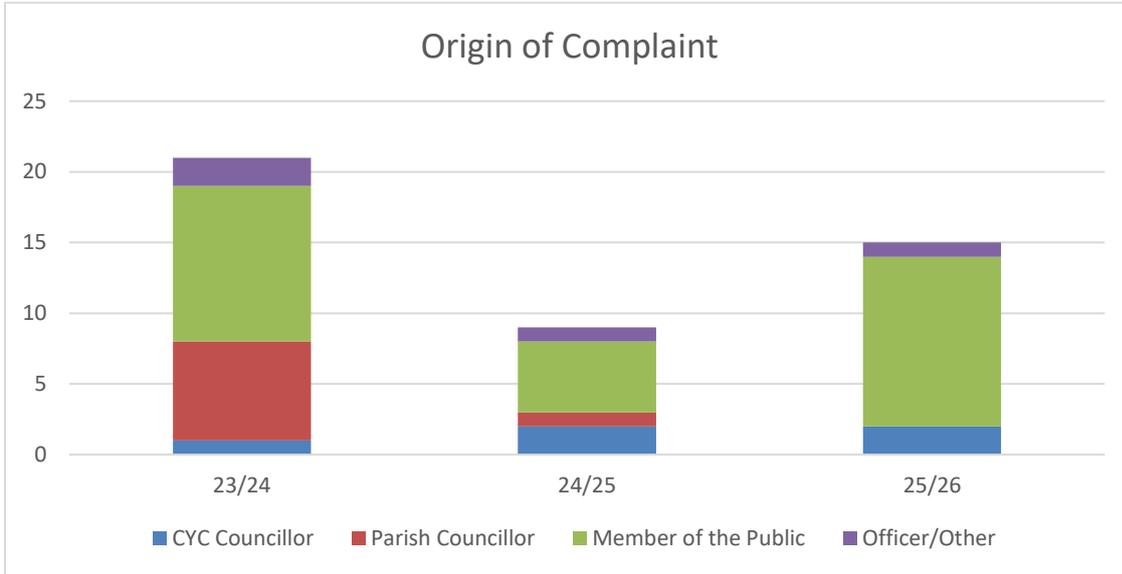
4. The following charts illustrate the nature of the complaints, who they came from, whether they related to Parish or CYC councillors and how they were dealt with (if closed) in the municipal years 23/24, 24/25 and 25/26 to allow for comparison.

Nature of complaints



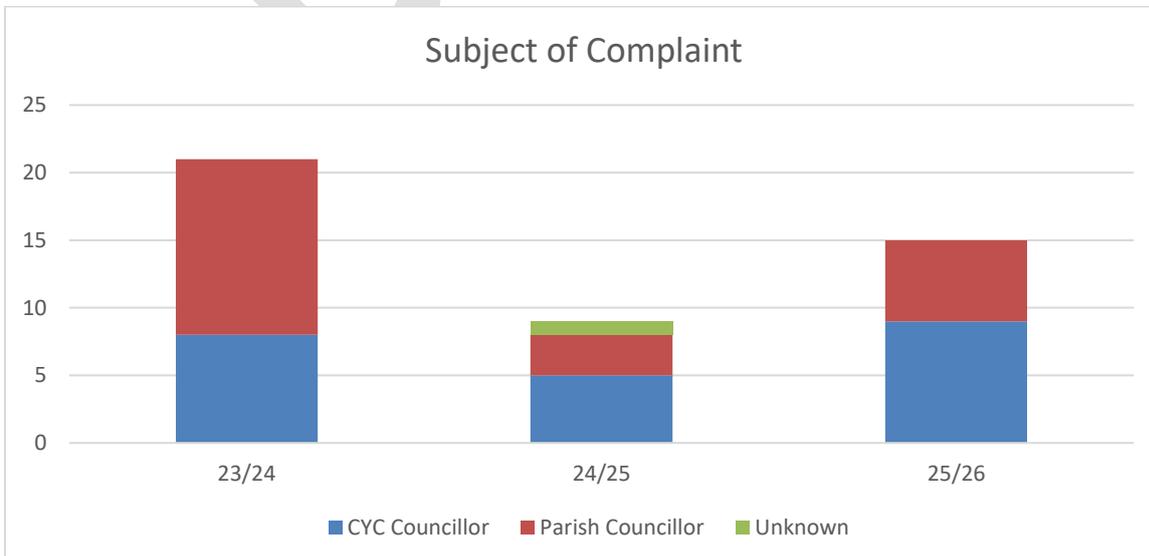
Nature of Complaints	23/24	24/25	25/26
Disrespect/disrepute	19	8	13
Not declaring an interest	2	1	2
Total	21	9	15

Origin of complaint



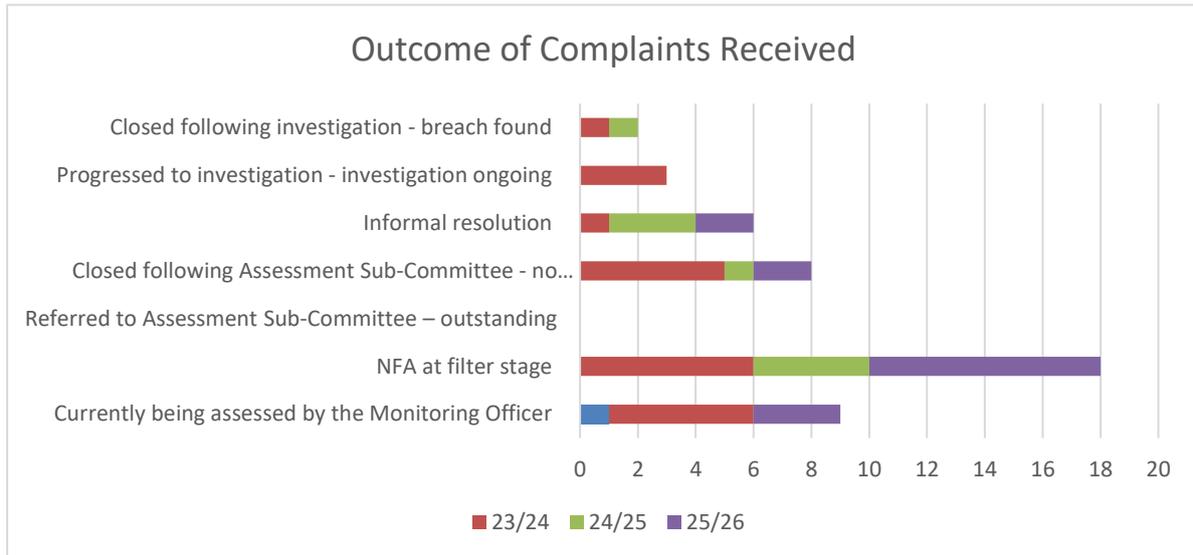
Origin of Complaint	23/24	24/25	25/26
CYC Councillor	1	2	2
Parish Councillor	7	1	0
Member of the Public	11	5	12
Officer/Other	2	1	1
Total	21	9	15

Subject of complaint



Subject of Complaint	23/24	24/25	25/26
CYC Councillor	8	5	9
Parish Councillor	13	3	6
Unknown		1	
Total	21	9	15

Outcome of complaints received



Outcome of complaints	23/24	24/25	25/26
Currently being assessed by the Monitoring Officer	5	0	3
NFA at filter stage	6	4	8
Referred to Assessment Sub-Committee – outstanding	0	0	0
Closed following Assessment Sub-Committee - no breach found	5	1	2
Informal resolution	1	3	2
Progressed to investigation - investigation ongoing	3	0	0
Closed following investigation - breach found	1	1	0
Total	21	9	15

5. All of the complaints received have been reported to meetings of the Joint Standards Committee throughout the year.

Other Work of the Committee

Results of Government consultation on strengthening the standards and conduct framework for local authorities in England.

6. As was noted in last year's annual report, the Committee provided their cross-party response to the Government consultation paper on strengthening the standards and conduct framework for local authorities in England, the outcome of which was published in November 2025.
7. The government proposes to legislate to prescribe a mandatory code, this will include:
 - a behavioural code,
 - the requirement for elected members and co-opted members to co-operate with code of conduct investigations,
 - and that submitting multiple vexatious complaints would be a code of conduct breach.

Local authorities will be able to develop their own guidance and protocols which must align with the mandatory code but will not be part of the code or arrangements for enforcement.

All code of conduct investigations undertaken by standards committees will be required to publish their findings and decisions, included those investigations that are found to be 'no case to answer'.

Complainants and respondents will have a legal 'right for review' of standards committee investigations.

Authorities will have the power to suspend elected members for serious code of conduct breaches for a maximum of 6 months, with the option to withhold allowances and a premises / facilities ban where appropriate.

An elected member may be placed on suspension in response to serious code of conduct allegations subject to external investigation.

An elected member or co-opted member may be disqualified if they receive a sanction of suspension for the maximum period of 6 months twice over a 5-year period.

While there is no timeline to date for these measures to be implemented, members can read the full details of the consultation [here](#):

Member Development and Training

8. At the Joint Standards meeting in May, the committee agreed to establish a Member Development Working Group. The group has since met on three occasions and has established the priorities for training, a protocol for evaluating the training provided for members, a protocol for managing member training records and has discussed the development of the 2027 Member Induction and Training programme.
9. Membership of the working group is as follows:
 - Cllr Runciman (Chair)
 - Cllr Steward (Vice-Chair)
 - Cllr Fisher
 - Cllrs Kent / Pavlovic
 - Parish Cllr Geoghegan-Breen
 - Ms R Mazza (Independent Person)

Member Training 2026

10. An outline training programme has been collated and is contained at Annex 1 of this report. Members should note this is a live document and subject to change.

Standards Training

11. Members participated in a code of conduct refresher which was held in person at West Offices on 3 February 2026 and delivered by the Director of Governance. The supporting presentation and recording will be available for members to refer to on the Members' Portal.

Evaluating Training

12. Members will be sent an evaluation form immediately following a member training session. The returns will be anonymised and fed back to the trainer and organiser. The data will form part of the training section of this section annual report of Joint Standards.

Member Training Records – essential training

13. Democratic Services will keep member records for all core/essential training. The training considered essential by the working group includes Planning, Licensing, Audit and Governance, and Standards/Code of Conduct training. Members will be contacted annually to confirm their record. Records will subsequently be anonymised and included in this section of the annual report of Joint Standards.

Members' Portal

14. The working group are also overseeing the revamp of the Members' Portal, which will host all the information members may need for meetings, training, scrutiny etc, in a format that is user friendly and easy to access.

Member Induction and Training – 2027

15. *[A report will be provided to the April meeting of the working group. A summary following the meeting will be included here.]*

Review of allegation handling arrangements

16. During the autumn, the committee also reviewed the allegation handling arrangements, which are set out in Appendix 29 of the Constitution. These have been revised to make the process clearer and aims to address the expectations of both Complainants and Subject Members in a fair and open way. The key changes are as follows:
 - The use of sub-committees is removed entirely.
 - LGA guidance is clear that hearings ought to be a last resort. In keeping with the “light touch” approach, hearings are reserved for the most serious or complex matters, or where the public interest demands that a Subject Member be given the chance to clear their name or a complainant be given the satisfaction that their allegation was formally upheld.
 - The approach to Anonymity, Confidentiality and Publicity are now clearly explained

- Parallel criminal or regulatory investigations no longer automatically freeze Standards procedures
 - A chair/vice chair *veto* is now suggested, in place of using an inquisitorial sub-committee, in all cases concerning the Leader, opposition Leader, Executive or shadow executive, and all chairs and vice chairs.
 - Hearings may now be “on paper” as well as oral.
 - Adjournments are now expressly provided for.
 - Hearing procedures are now set out more clearly to control the use and presentation of evidence and witnesses, the order of business and the removal of the requirement for separate hearings for findings and for sanctions
 - Provision of reasons for decisions are now restricted to the complainant and Subject Member, to comply with duties for an appeal by way of Judicial Review or to the Ombudsman, but also to free the Authority to better control press releases.
 - Sanctions are now clearly explained so that all parties’ expectations are managed.
 - A new ‘written warning’ is added, to provide a documentary train that makes the management of patterned behaviour easier.
17. *[The proposed changes to Appendix 29 will be considered at Full Council on 26 March 2026, the outcome of which will be included here.]*

Future work

18. The committee will be working with officers to implement the strengthened standards and conduct framework once the timeline has been confirmed by the Government.
19. The main focus of the Member Development working group will be the development of the Member Induction and Training package for 2027 and the Members’ Portal.

Member Training 2026

Date	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
1												
2												
3		Code of Conduct (Hudson 16:30)				Regulatory Standards in Social Housing (Hudson 17:30)						
4												
5			Disability Equity Training (13:00-16:00 & 17:00-20:00 Hudson)									
6			Disability Equity Training (10:00-13:00 Hudson)									
7												

Member Training 2026

Date	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
8						Performance and Ward data, (Hudson, 17:30)						
9			Emergency Planning Awareness Briefing (Teams, 16:30)									
10												
11												
12												
13												
14												
15												
16				Planning for Ward Cllrs (14:00-16:00 Hudson)								
17												
18												

Member Training 2026

Date	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
19		Scrutiny Training (via Teams)										
20												
21			Risk Management Training (via Teams) 16:30									
22				Personal safety briefing (via Teams) tbc								
23						Performance and Ward data, (Teams, 17:30)						
24												
25												
26												
27												

Member Training 2026

Date	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
28				Safeguarding Adults Review 17:00, Hudson								
29				Planning and affordable housing - all members (Hudson 16:30)								
30												
31												

	School Holidays
	Statutory
	Confirmed

Work Plan for Joint Standards Committee 2025/26

Meeting Date (4.00pm start time)	Items	Notes
8 July 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitoring report in respect of complaints received. • Review of Work Plan 	Standard Item
16 September 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report on the proposed changed to appendix 29, case handling procedures • Review of Work Plan, <i>agree proposed change to meeting dates.</i> • Monitoring report in respect of complaints received. 	Standard Item
20 November 2025 01 December 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appendix 29, Joint Standards Committee Procedures, Revisions • Review of Work Plan • Monitoring report in respect of complaints received. 	Chris Coss Standard Item
22 January 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update to Appendix 29 • Monitoring report in respect of complaints received. • Review of Work Plan 	Chris Coss Standard Item

19 March 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual complaints report / Chair's draft report to full council • Monitoring report in respect of complaints received. • Review of Work Plan 	<p>Julie Gallagher</p> <p>Standard Item</p>
18 May 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Member Development and Induction, report of the Working Group • Parish Council Liaison • Monitoring report in respect of complaints received. • Review of Work Plan 	<p>Standard Item</p>

Pending items for consideration:

- Review of Citywide Democratic Engagement of Parished and Non Parished areas
- Parish Council Liaison



Joint Standards Committee**19 March 2026**

Report of the Deputy Monitoring Officer

Monitoring Report in respect of Complaints Received**Summary**

1. This report is to update the Committee on the position regarding ongoing and recently closed complaints. It also includes a summary of the actions taken in relation to CYC cases closed within the last year.

Background

2. The Joint Standards Committee is responsible for promoting a culture of openness, accountability, probity and the maintenance of high standards of conduct by members. In order to do so, it reviews all code of conduct complaints. This enables, amongst other things:
 - Monitoring overall numbers of complaints allowing comparison with similar authorities
 - Monitoring trends of increasing/decreasing levels of complaints and identifying links to key events or triggers
 - Identifying common types of complaints which may illustrate a need for enhanced training and information
 - Assessing the efficacy of sanctions imposed by noting changes in complaint numbers relating to a particular circumstance or member following previous intervention.
 - Assessing the efficacy of the complaints procedure and identifying possible improvements.

Commentary on Case Logs**Open cases**

3. There are currently 3 open cases. officers and procedure. Case reference 2026/02 relates to internal emails between 2 parish

councillors disclosed under FOI provisions and containing personal attacks, evidence of bias and unlawful intent. Case 2026/05, is being assessed, and 2026/07 has recently been received; an initial assessment is underway. Annex A refers.

Cases closed since last JSC

4. 5 cases have been closed since the last committee meeting. Case 2026/06 was considered not to pass the gateway test for a code of conduct issue. Annex B refers.

Completed resolutions

5. Actions taken following the closure of complaints involving CYC councillors, over the last 12 months, have been tracked and recorded in the table contained at Annex C.

Implications

Financial

6. Not applicable to this report.

Human Resources (HR)

7. Not applicable to this report.

Equalities

8. Maintaining standards across the City through the Code of Conduct ensures that an ethical framework can be adhered to, including ensuring that equality issues form an integral part of that framework.

Legal

9. Monitoring the standards procedure and its effectiveness is required under section 27 Localism Act 2011, encouraged by the LGA and the Committee on Standards in Public Life and a defined function of the Joint Standards Committee under Article 10 of the Constitution.

Crime and Disorder, Information Technology and Property

10. Not applicable to this report.

Recommendations

11. That the Joint Standards Committee notes the content of this report.

Reason: to ensure that the Committee is aware of the current levels of activity and is able to provide oversight of the complaints' procedure.

Author & Officer Responsible for the report:

Julie Gallagher
Head of Democratic Services
and Deputy Monitoring Officer

julie.gallagher@york.gov.uk

**Report
Approved**

Date 11 March
2026

Wards Affected:

All

For further information please contact the author of the report

Annexes:

- Annex A (i) Table showing open complaints (public)
- Annex A (ii) Table showing open complaints (confidential)
- Annex B (i) Table showing recently closed complaints
- Annex B (ii) Table showing recently closed complaints (confidential)
- Annex C Table showing complaint outcomes in the last 12 months.

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Open Complaints Log - Public

Case ref	City or Parish	Complainant	Date Received	Nature of Complaint	Status / updates	Officer
2026/02	Parish	1 x Resident	14/01/26	FOI request revealed internal emails alleged to contain personal attacks on a resident, evidence of pre-determination and dishonesty, in breach of the Parish Code of Conduct	This complaint is currently being assessed by the Deputy Monitoring Officer in consultation with the Chair/Vice Chair of the Joint Standards Committee. IP views sought.	CC
2026/05	Parish	1 x Resident	25/02/26	The complaint relates to the Cllr breaching the code of conduct and abusing their position, with failure to follow due process.	This complaint is currently being assessed by the Deputy Monitoring Officer. IP views sought.	JG
2026/07	CYC	1 x Resident	09/03/26	Inappropriate use of social media, abusing their position.	This complaint is currently being assessed by the Deputy Monitoring Officer. IP views sought.	JG

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Annex B (i)

Recently Closed Complaints Log - Public

Case ref	City or Parish	Complainant	Date Received	Nature of Complaint	Status / update	Officer
2025/13	City	1 x Resident	15/12/2025 Closed 26/01/2026	The complainant alleges disrespectful Facebook posts that amount to bullying and abuse, in breach of paragraphs 1, 2 and 5 of the CYC Code of Conduct.	This complaint was assessed by the Deputy Monitoring Officer. IP and Chair of the Joint Standards Committee views sought. Informal resolution - letter of advice sent to the Councillor, with the recommendation of further training.	JG
2026/01	City	1 x Resident	06/01/2026 Closed 28/01/2026	The complainant alleges improper use of position to unduly influence planning officers and procedure, disrespect and bringing CYC into disrepute	This complaint was assessed by the Deputy Monitoring Officer. IP views sought. Assessment sub-committee convened for 28/01/26 The sub committee resolved to take no further action.	JG
2026/03	City	CYC Councillor	05/02/2026 Closed 25/02/26	The complainant refers to the code of conduct breach through disrespect, bullying, bringing the role and council into disrepute and breach of confidentiality in relation to a press release.	This complaint was assessed by the Deputy Monitoring Officer. IP views sought. Assessment Sub-Committee convened met 25/02/26 members agreed matter was in scope and advisory note issued to complainant and subject member and Group Leaders.	JG
2026/04	City	1 X Resident	13/02/2026	The complainant refers to a Code of Conduct breach following public statement alleged to have been dishonest, disrespectful, bringing the	This complaint is currently being assessed by the Deputy Monitoring Officer and IP views sought.	CC

Annex B (i)

Recently Closed Complaints Log - Public

Case ref	City or Parish	Complainant	Date Received	Nature of Complaint	Status / update	Officer
			Closed 05/03/26	role and council into disrepute and an abuse of position	The allegation is in scope. Assessment sub-committee convened for 05/03/26 and resolved to take no further action.	
2026/06	Parish	1 x Resident	25/02/26 Closed 05/03/26	The complaint relates to the Cllr breaching the code of conduct and abusing their position, with failure to follow due process.	This complaint is currently being assessed by the Deputy Monitoring Officer. After careful consideration it did not pass the gateway test for a code of conduct issue.	JG

PUBLIC 1 YEAR - Closed Complaints Log

Complaint Number	Parish or CYC Cllr	Complainant	Date of Complaint	Nature of the complaint	Progress of Complaint	Resolution	Resolution completed
2024/15 (FH)	CYC	CYC Officer	06/11/24	The complainant alleges that during a Council meeting, the Councillor breached the code of conduct and points 1.2, 1.3, 2.4, 4.2, 4.3 & 4.4 of the Protocol for Officer / Member Relations.	<p>This complaint falls under paragraph 5 of the complaints handling process. It will therefore be referred to a JSC Sub Committee for assessment.</p> <p>Informal resolution by way of a conciliation meeting between parties proposed. The meeting is arranged and will be facilitated by the Monitoring Officer.</p> <p>Informal resolution took place, complaint closed.</p>	Informal resolution by way of a conciliation meeting between parties proposed. The meeting is arranged and will be facilitated by the Monitoring Officer	Conciliation meeting took place on 18 March 2025 between the complainant and the Subject Member, facilitated by the Monitoring Officer, allowing both parties to clarify their views and approaches to disagreements.
2024/16 (FH)	CYC	CYC Councillor York residents York resident	09/03/25 31/03/25 04/04/25	<p>The complainant alleges that during a Council meeting, the Councillor made an offensive gesture and statement towards a fellow Councillor.</p> <p>A second complaint on this matter was received from</p>	<p>This complaint falls under paragraph 5 of the complaints handling process. It will therefore be referred to a JSC Sub Committee for assessment.</p> <p>Following the JSC Sub Committee held on 11th April, the assessment sub-committee concluded that the matters complained of were capable of constituting breaches of the Member Code of Conduct and</p>	The assessment sub-committee concluded that the matters complained of were capable of constituting breaches of the Member Code of Conduct and consequently the complaint was in	Letter sent

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				<p>members of the public.</p> <p>A third complaint on this matter was received from a member of the public.</p>	<p>consequently the complaint was in scope. The matter should be resolved informally by means of a letter of advice to be issued by the Chair of the Joint Standards Committee to all parties and connected persons. Letter of advice sent to all parties and Group Leaders. Complaint closed.</p>	<p>scope. The matter should be resolved informally by means of a letter of advice to be issued by the Chair of the Joint Standards Committee to all parties and connected persons</p>	
2024/18 (LT)	CYC	York resident	24/03/25	<p>The complainant alleges that the Councillor acted in an unprofessional manner in relation to a comment on social media, and used insulting and abusive language in a public comment on social media.</p>	<p>The Deputy Monitoring Officer reached the conclusion that informal resolution should be sought. A letter of advice will be sent to the Councillor to remind them that the behaviours displayed on social media were not acceptable and all Elected Members need to be mindful of the behaviours they display in public, including on social media. Training will also be provided for all Members on the appropriate and safe use of social media. Parties notified, complaint closed.</p>	<p>An informal resolution should be sought. A letter of advice will be sent to the Councillor to remind them that the behaviours displayed on social media were not acceptable and all Elected Members need to be mindful of the behaviours they display in public, including on social media. Training will also be provided for all Members on the</p>	Letter sent

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						appropriate and safe use of social media.	
2024/20 (LT)	CYC	Parish	28/03/25	The complainant alleges that the Councillor misused their '.gov.uk' email address. The complainant also alleges that the Councillor displayed coercive behaviour via email.	This complaint is currently being assessed by the Deputy Monitoring Officer. Views of the IP received. This complaint falls under paragraph 5 of the complaints handling process. It will therefore be referred to a JSC Sub Committee for assessment. The sub-committee's decision was to resolve the matter informally by way of provision of training for all members on the appropriate use of email accounts. Parties notified, complaint closed.	The sub-committee's decision was to resolve the matter informally by way of provision of training for all members on the appropriate use of email accounts	All member training scheduled for Feb 2026. Parish Councillors have resolved not to book a Code of Conduct training session with the YLCA. As Councillors received CYC PowerPoint session on the Code of Conduct.
2025/02 (LT)	CYC	Parish	16/04/25	The complainant alleges that the Councillor shared a leaflet that was not a balanced or truthful representation of the facts. The	This complaint is currently being assessed by the Deputy Monitoring Officer. Views of the IP received. This complaint falls under paragraph 5 of the complaints		

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				complainant alleges this breaches the following aspects of the Code of Conduct: 3.1 Impartiality and 5.1 Disrepute.	handling process. It will therefore be referred to a JSC Sub Committee for assessment. The Assessment sub-committee concluded that the complaint would not constitute a breach of the code of conduct. No further action to be taken. Parties notified, complaint closed.		
2025/03 (LT)	Parish	York Resident	08/05/25	The complainant alleges that the Councillor breached points 3.3 and 3.7 of the code of conduct in an email they claimed was sent on behalf of the Parish Council.	Views of the IP sought. The Deputy Monitoring Officer has reached the conclusion that the complaint can be categorised as a “tit for tat” complaint (paragraph 10[d]) in response to the previous complaints that have already gone through the formal process. Therefore, no further action should be taken as it would not be in the public interest, or in the interest of the parish council, to revisit the complaints that have been resolved. Complaint closed, parties notified.		
2025/04 (LT)	Parish	CYC	29/04/25	The complainant alleges that the Councillor exhibited	Views of the IP sought. The Deputy Monitoring Officer has reached the conclusion that the complaint can		

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				bullying and harassing behaviours, therefore breaching the code of conduct.	be categorised as a “tit for tat” complaint (paragraph 10[d]) in response to the previous complaints that have already gone through the formal process. Therefore, no further action should be taken as it would not be in the public interest, or in the interest of the parish council, to revisit the complaints that have been resolved. Complaint closed, parties notified.		
2025/05	CYC	Anonymous	17/06/25	The complainant alleges that the Councillor used inappropriate language when communicating via email.	The complaint was assessed in accordance with the published procedure for handling Code of Conduct complaints, and a decision was made to take no further action. This is because whilst the email forwarded to the Council officer is critical of Council employees, a certain level of criticism is allowed under the Code as part of a Councillor’s role. Parties notified, complaint closed.		
2025/09	CYC	York resident	18/09/2025	The complainant alleges that the Councillor has not responded to them	The complaint was assessed in accordance with the published procedure for handling Code of Conduct complaints, and a		

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				on multiple occasions.	decision was made to take no further action. This is because a delay/failure to respond is not of itself capable of amounting to disrespect, or of bringing the role or Authority into disrepute and therefore does not constitute a breach of the code. Parties notified, complaint closed.		
2025/10	Parish	York resident	24/09/2025	The complainant alleges that the Councillor acted in an unprofessional manner in relation to a comment on social media.	The Deputy Monitoring Officer reached the conclusion that this matter is outside of the scope of the code of conduct. This is because the subject member was not acting in their capacity as a Parish Councillor when the alleged breach occurred. There was no reference in the comment or on the Councillor's social media profile to their role as a Parish Councillor, and the post made was not in relation to any duty they may have as a Councillor. Parties notified, complaint closed.		
2025/11	CYC	Resident	07/10/2025	The complainant alleges the Councillor did not declare an interests	In considering the matter all parties were in agreement that minuting the Councillor's confirmation of his address at the		

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				<p>regarding a planning application and was not impartial</p>	<p>meeting, could have provided reassurance about the maintenance of openness.</p> <p>Accordingly, it is recommended that these matters are recorded at future Parish Council meetings.</p> <p>In addition, we would recommend the Clerk and also the Parish Council undertake refresher Code of Conduct Training.</p>		
2025/12	CYC	Resident	12/11/2025	<p>The complainant alleges that Councillors have not responded to email correspondence they have received, and in not doing so breached the Code of Conduct.</p>	<p>Complaint closed – no further action.</p> <p>The complaint was assessed in accordance with the published procedure for handling Code of Conduct complaints, and a decision was made to take no further action. This is because a delay/failure to respond is not of itself capable of amounting to disrespect, or of bringing the role or Authority into disrepute and therefore does not constitute a breach of the code. Parties notified, complaint closed.</p>		

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2025/13	CYC	Resident	15/12/2025 Closed 26/01/2026	Complaint reference: 568733 I believe the Councillor has breached the Councillors' Code of Conduct. In multiple public comments made on a Facebook group he has failed to meet the standards of respect, integrity, honesty, and proper use of position expected of an elected member.	IP views sought and Chair of the Joint Standards Committee. An informal resolution should be sought, and a letter of advice will be sent to the Councillor, with the recommendation of further training.		Completed
2025/07	CYC	5 x residents	17/08/25 Closed 22/01/2026	The complainants allege the Councillor posted an abusive message on 'X', and therefore breached paragraphs 3.1, 3.3 and 3.7 of the code of conduct.	This complaint was assessed in consultation with the Chair. The Vice chair recused following a declared personal interest. The IP identified a breach of the Code and recommended referral for investigation. DMO initial assessment noted clearly abusive content but no evidence of alleged homophobia. Also noted the message was removed within hours and an apology already		

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					independently volunteered. Matter disposed by way of Informal Resolution and recommendation for additional training regarding social media use.		
2025/08	CYC	Resident	28/08/25 Closed 22/01/2026	The complainant alleges the Councillor sent unprofessional and inappropriate correspondence via email. The complainant also alleges the correspondence was dismissive and bring the council into disrepute.	This complaint was assessed in consultation with the Chair and Vice Chair. The IP recommended no further action. DMO initial assessment was that the content of the emails was not disrespectful nor bringing CYC into disrepute and, although suggestive, did not go as far as to admit or promote criminal behaviour. As there was no evidence of a Code breach, no further action would be taken and the matter closed.		
2026/01	CYC	Resident	06/01/2026 Closed 22/01/2026	The complainant refers to the conduct of a Councillor in relation to a live planning application, the complainant has	As the complainant was a member of the Council's Executive the matter was referred to a meeting of the Joint Standards Sub Committee. The Sub Committee met and resolved that the matter wasn't in		

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				alleged that the Cllr has failed to comply with multiple specific duties set out in the Code of Conduct.	scope and no further action was required.		
2026/06	CYC	Resident	25/02/26 Closed 05/03/26	The complaint relates to the Cllr breaching the code of conduct and abusing their position, with failure to follow due process.	This complaint was assessed by the DMO and the IP After careful consideration it did not pass the gateway test for a code of conduct issue.		
2026/03	CYC	Resident	05/02/26 Closed	The complainant refers to the code of conduct of the Cllr in relation to press releases about the recent senior officer redundancy case.	The matter was considered by the Joint Standards Assessment Sub-Committee. The Sub Committee resolved to issue an Advisory Note to the complainant and the subject member, and Group leaders reminding them of the need to always treat members with respect.	See Appendix	Completed
2026/04	CYC	Resident	13/02/26 Closed	The complaint relates to specific conduct by a	As the complainant was a member of the Council's Executive the matter was referred to a meeting		

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				<p>member of the Executive.</p>	<p>of the Joint Standards Sub Committee.</p> <p>The Sub Committee met and resolved that the matter was not in scope and no further action was required.</p>		
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