

Joint Standards Committee

- To:** Councillors Rowley BEM (Chair), D'Agorne, Fisher, Galvin and Kilbane (CYC Members)
- Councillors Rawlings (Vice-Chair), Chambers and M Waudby (Parish Council Members)
- Mr Leigh and Mr Gadd (Independent Persons)
- Date:** Thursday, 20 April 2023
- Time:** 4.00 pm
- Venue:** The Thornton Room - Ground Floor, West Offices (G039)

AGENDA

1. Declarations of Interest

At this point in the meeting, 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.

2. Exclusion of Press and Public

To consider the exclusion of the public and press from the meeting during consideration of exempt Annexes A and B to Agenda Item 11 (Monitoring Report in Respect of Complaints Received), on the grounds that they contain 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 amended by the Local Government (Access to Information)(Variation) Order 2006.

3. Minutes

(Pages 1 - 4)

To approve and sign the minutes of the meeting of the Joint Standards Committee held on 19 January 2023.

4. **Minutes of Sub-Committees** (Pages 5 - 6)
To approve and sign the minutes of the meeting of the Joint Standards Assessments Sub-Committee held on 21 February 2023.
5. **Urgent Business**
Any other business which the Chair decides is urgent under the Local Government Act 1972.
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, 18 April 2023.

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 Municipal Year 2022-2023** (Pages 7 - 18)
This report provides the committee with a finalised draft Annual Report for 2022-2023.
8. **Review of Work Plan** (Pages 19 - 20)
To consider the Committee's work plan for the 2023-24 Municipal Year.

**9. Monitoring Report in Respect of Complaints (Pages 21 - 36)
Received**

To receive a routine update report on recent standards complaints.

Democratic Services officer:

Name: Fiona Young

Contact Details:

Telephone – (01904) 552030

Email – fiona.young@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.

This information can be provided in your own language.

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)

 **(01904) 551550**

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City of York Council

Minutes

Meeting	Joint Standards Committee
Date	19 January 2023
Present	Councillors Rowley (Chair), D'Agorne, Fisher, Galvin and Kilbane (CYC Members) Councillors Rawlings (Vice Chair), Chambers and Waudby (Parish Council Members) Mr Gadd (<i>attending remotely</i>) and Mr Leigh (Independent Persons)
Officer in Attendance	Frances Harrison – Deputy Monitoring Officer

21. **Declarations of Interest**

Members were asked to declare any disclosable pecuniary interests or other registrable interests not included on the Register of Interests, which they might have in respect of business on the agenda.

Cllr Fisher declared a non registrable interest in two of the cases on the list appended to the report at Agenda Item 8 (Monitoring Report in respect of Complaints Received), due to his involvement in those cases. He left the room during consideration of that item and took no part in the discussion or decision thereon.

22. **Exclusion of Press and Public**

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 8 (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).

23. Minutes

Resolved: That the minutes of the meeting of the Joint Standards Committee held on 17 November 2023 be approved, and signed as a correct record, subject to the addition of a note against the attendances to indicate that Mr Gadd attended remotely.

24. Public Participation

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

25. Work undertaken and support offered by the Yorkshire Local Councils Association

Members received a report which provided information on the Yorkshire Local Councils Associations (YLCA) and its role in building positive links with parish and town councils, including details of the benefits and training that it offered to its members (Annexes A and B).

Sheena Spence, Chief Officer of YLCA, attended the meeting to expand upon the report and respond to any questions. She outlined the history and purpose of Local Councils Associations in England and Wales and highlighted the extent of the YLCA membership, which currently comprised 560 local councils and parish meetings. In response to Members' questions, she confirmed that:

- Take-up of training was generally good and remote training had also worked well.
- She was happy to consider the idea of Independent Persons attending training sessions.
- She and the Deputy Monitoring Officer had discussed possible training for CYC Members about parish councils.
- CYC was not unique in the number of Code of Conduct complaints it received about parish councillors; these often resulted from not understanding which interests to declare.
- It might be appropriate to refer councillors who had breached the code to some of the sessions on the training programme.
- Where a whole council was dysfunctional this could be addressed by a 'health check' of its policies and

procedures or a full governance review leading to an action plan.

- High vacancy rates on parish councils were a problem; it was not clear if CYC could assist with this as it was about making the role more attractive and PCs themselves needed to be proactive.

The Chair thanked Ms Spence for her attendance and contribution.

Resolved: That the information shared by the YLCA be noted.

26. Review of Work Plan

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

Resolved: That the work plan be approved.

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

27. Monitoring Report in respect of Complaints Received

Members considered a report which provided an update on current business as regards complaints.

An anonymised list of live complaints was attached at Annex A to the report, and an anonymised list of closed complaints at Annex B. Full details were provided in an exempt version of each annex. The annexes were provided in the revised format suggested by Members at the last meeting.

The Deputy Monitoring Officer confirmed that all of the ongoing cases on the list were under investigation and were close to conclusion in terms of finalising the reports. Discussion of the exempt lists took place in private session, in accordance with the resolution in Minute 15 above.

Cllr Fisher did not take part in either the public or the private session on this item.

Resolved: That the report be noted.

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

Cllr M Rowley BEM, Chair

The meeting started at 4.00 pm and finished at 5.17 pm.

City of York Council

Committee Minutes

Meeting	Joint Standards Committee - Assessments Sub-Committee
Date	21 February 2023
Present	Councillors Kilbane and Rowley (CYC Members) Councillor Rawlings (Parish Council Member) Mr Gadd (Independent Person, attending remotely)
Officer in Attendance	Frances Harrison – Deputy Monitoring Officer

10. Appointment of Chair (14:01)

Resolved: That Cllr Kilbane be appointed as Chair of the meeting.

11. Declarations of Interest (14:02)

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. No interests were declared.

12. Exclusion of Press and Public (14:02)

Resolved: That the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the private report at Agenda Item 4 (Code of Conduct Complaints received in respect a City of York Councillor), on the grounds that it contains information relating to an individual, which is classed as exempt under paragraph 1 of Schedule 12A to Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006.

13. Code of Conduct Complaints Received in Respect of a City of York Councillor (14:05)

Members considered a report which set out two Code of Conduct complaints received in respect of a City of York Councillor. Details of the complaints and circumstances were presented in the private report referred to in Minute 12 above.

Members were asked, in respect of each of the complaints received, to consider whether to:

- A. Rule that the complaint is out of scope, or
- B. Rule that the complaint is in scope and choose either to:
 - a) take no further action
 - b) seek to resolve the matter informally, or
 - c) refer the matter for investigation.

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

Resolved: (i) That in respect of the first complaint, Option A be approved and the complaint be ruled out of scope.

Reason: The Sub-Committee does not consider that this matter is capable of being a breach of the Code of Conduct.

(ii) That in respect of the second complaint Option B(b) be approved and the complaint be ruled in scope and an informal resolution be sought; namely, a written apology.

Reason: The Sub-Committee considers that this matter is capable of being a breach of the Code of Conduct and that some action should be taken but that an investigation is not required.

Cllr P Kilbane, Chair

[The meeting started at 2.00 pm and finished at 3.15 pm].



20 April 2023

Joint Standards Committee

Report of the Deputy Monitoring Officer

Annual report for Municipal Year 2022/2023

Summary

This report provides the Joint Standards Committee with a finalised draft Annual Report for 2022/2023.

Background

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.

The final breakdown of complaints received during the municipal year has now been calculated to date and will be checked and finalised in May 2022 when the new municipal year commences. A draft of the annual report is attached at Annex A.

Implications

Financial

Not applicable to this report.

Human Resources (HR)

Not applicable to this report.

Equalities

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

As detailed within the report.

Crime and Disorder, Information Technology and Property

Not applicable to this report.

Recommendations

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:**

Frances Harrison

Head of Legal Services &

Deputy Monitoring Officer

Tel: 01904 551988

**Report
Approved**

Date 12th April
2023

Specialist Implications Officer(s):

Wards Affected: *List wards or tick box to indicate all*

All

For further information please contact the author of the report

Background Papers:

- Annex A – Annual Report 2022/2023

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20 April 2023

Annual report for 2022/2023

Foreword from the Chair of the Joint Standards Committee

It has been a privilege to both chair and be a member of this statutory committee for the last municipal year. Unlike some local authorities, York, decided some time ago to not impose proportionality to this committee, thereby ensuring an even political balance. That decision has proved very beneficial as we have attempted to handle our workload as collaboratively as possible, the invaluable input from our Parish Council representative, and our independent persons has been very much appreciated. Some changes in membership were needed when Councillor David Carr began his year as Lord Mayor, and so Councillor John Galvin replaced him, bringing his wealth of experience to the Committee. Councillor Rosie Baker was replaced by Councillor Andy D'Agorne too. As the Chair, I want to extend my appreciation to Councillors Galvin and D'Agorne for their valuable input into the work of this committee this year. This was the first municipal year in which the new model code of conduct was used to assess a deal with complaints. However, there were still some outstanding complaints which needed to be dealt with by the old code. Staffing issues led to some unavoidable delays, but these now seem to be resolved. As we enter a phase of transition to a new administration, I want to thank my colleagues for allowing me the honour to chair this committee for the last three years, and I believe we have laid down a 'blue print' for future committees to follow which is both robust and workable.

Cllr M Rowley BEM
Chair of Joint Standards Committee

Membership of the Committee

The Committee would like to thank all of its Members for supporting and attending the meetings during this year. The Committee appointed Councillor Martin Rowley as the Chair and Councillor Stuart Rawlings as the Vice Chair.

City of York Council:

- Councillor Martin Rowley BEM
- Councillor Andy D'Agorne
- Councillor Tony Fisher
- Councillor John Galvin
- Councillor Peter Kilbane

Parish Councils

- Councillor Stuart Rawlings
- Councillor Christopher Chambers
- Councillor Mark Waudby

Independent Persons

- Alex Oram
- Joe Leigh
- Richard Gadd

Complaints

The Council received the following Code of Conduct complaints in the Municipal year May 2022 to May 2023:

Total number of complaints made: 14

Of those, number closed: 6

Number of current year complaints ongoing: 8

The following pie charts illustrate the nature of the complaints, who they came from, whether they were Parish or CYC and how they were dealt with (if closed).

Figure 1 - Nature of complaint

11/14 disrespect/disrepute
3/14 not declaring an interest

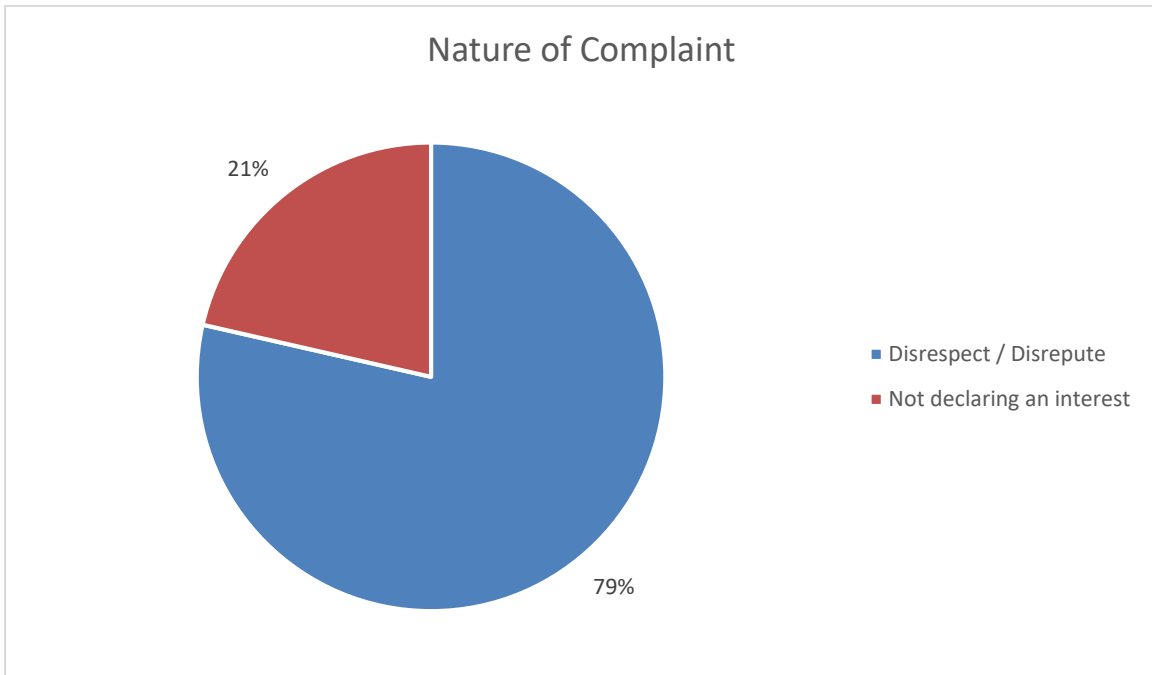


Figure 2 - Origin of complaint

CYC Councillor 3/14
Parish Councillor 5/14
Member of the Public 4/14
Officer/Other 2/14

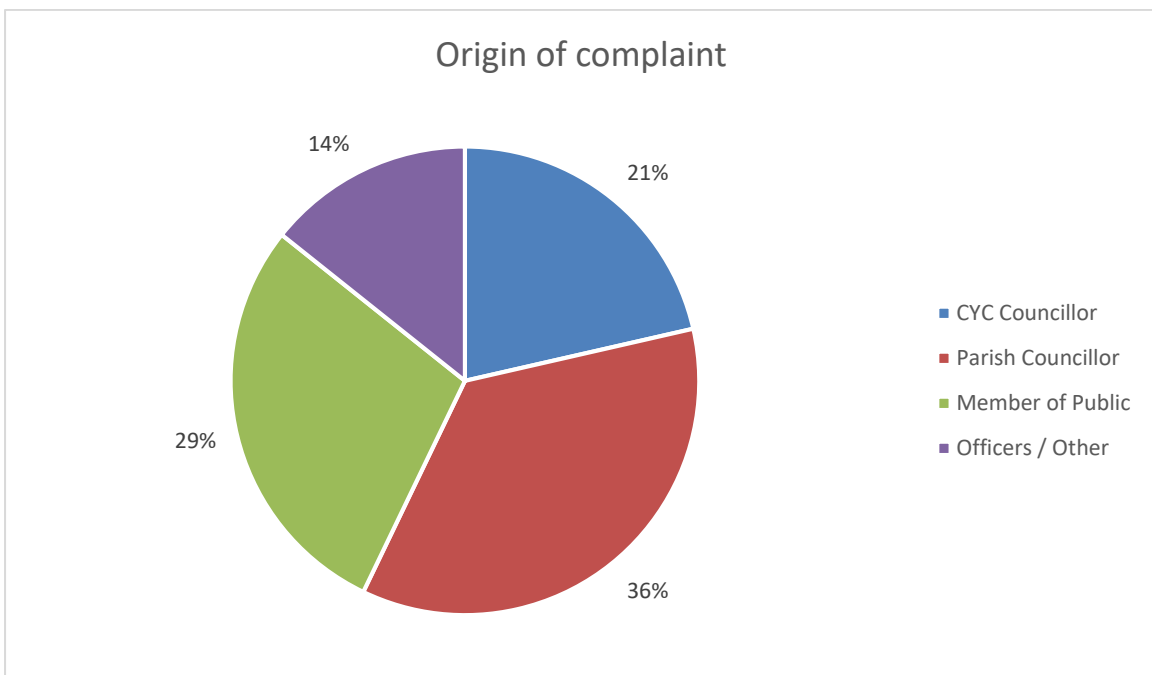


Figure 3 - Subject Member of complaint

CYC Councillor 8/14

Parish Councillor 6/14

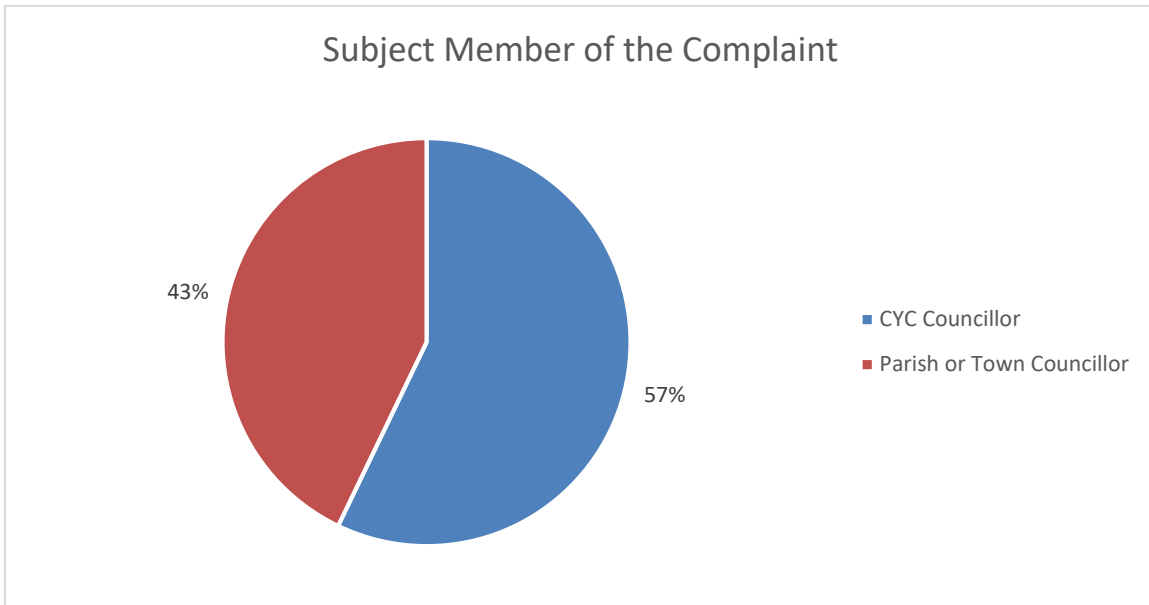


Figure 4 - Outcome of complaints received 2022-23

Currently being assessed by the Monitoring Officer 2/14

NFA at filter stage 4/14

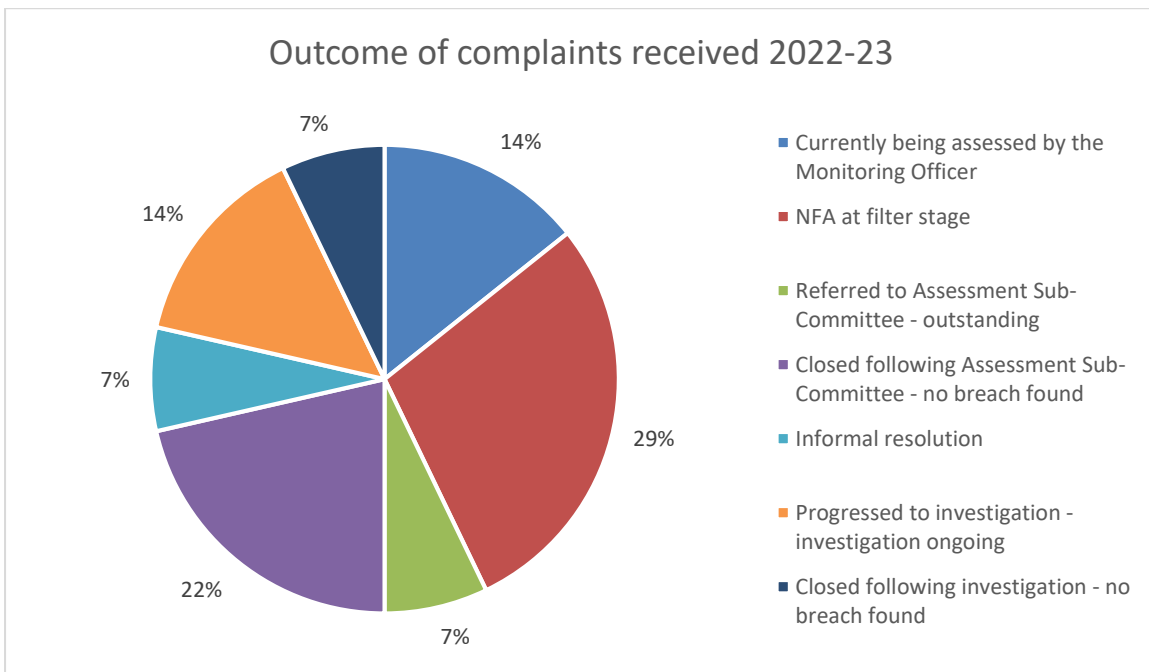
Referred to Assessment Sub-Committee – outstanding 1/14

Closed following Assessment Sub-Committee - no breach found 3/14

Informal resolution 1/14

Progressed to investigation - investigation ongoing 2/14

Closed following investigation - no breach found 1/14



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

Other work

Model Code of Conduct for Members and review of Supporting Procedures

A substantial amount of work was carried out in the years 2021/21 and 21/22 to adopt the LGA Model Code of Conduct and implement a procedure for dealing with complaints. Reflections of the Committee's experience of using that procedure during 22/23 (Appendix 29 of the Constitution) will inform future amendments scheduled for the new municipal year 23/24.

Recruitment of Independent Persons

A recruitment exercise took place during the middle of 2022. Joe Leigh and Richard Gadd were successfully recruited as Independent Persons and both have received training and mentoring and have taken on full responsibility for the role, serving in rotation.

Alex Oram served as a professional Independent Person pending these appointments and will continue to support ongoing training and development as necessary.

Fair Investigations

The Joint Standards Committee has been kept informed on developments nationally in the Standards field. In a notable case investigated by the Local Government Ombudsman in December 2022 (case reference 21004645), Teinbridge District Council was asked to rescind a decision notice upholding a complaint of breach of its Member Code of Conduct. The Ombudsman found fault in the Council's investigation process because it had a) failed to make adequate written records of sharing the complaint with the subject member or consultation with the Independent Person; b) had expanded the scope of the investigation without clear reasons or an explanation to the subject member; and c) had failed to fully take into account the subject member's right to freedom of expression.

The Committee remains focused on ensuring its procedures are scrupulously fair and transparent and will continue to learn from good and bad practice highlighted elsewhere.

Civility in Public Life

The Committee has noted the ongoing work of the Local Government Association on Civility in Public Lifeⁱ. This project began out of concern for the increasing number of councillors experiencing abuse. The consequences of abuse of public figures range from tragic incidents like the murder of MP Jo Cox to the insidious growth in reluctance for new councillors to come forward and serve their communities. A mutual respect between citizens and holders of public office is essential to local democracy. The committee is keen to ensure that this is observed on both sides. It can hold Members to account for breaches of the Code of Conduct. Citizens can only be held to account if their actions are also criminal. The Committee may however wish to make recommendations on how negative citizen engagement can be discouraged with one option being to sign up to the LGA's pledge.

Code of Conduct Training for Members/Member Induction Programme

The Joint Standards Committee shares a responsibility with the Audit and Governance Committee for shaping training for Members around Standards. Training delivered to Members by Alex Oram in November 2022 was positively received. Alex will be returning to York to deliver Code of Conduct training as part of the Member Induction Programme.

Effective dissemination of information and training is a key aspect of the work of the Committee. A proactive role in promoting high standards of conduct is the Committee's primary focus. The Council is required by law to have a mechanism for dealing with allegations of breach of the Member Code of Conduct and that function sits with the Standards Committee and the Monitoring Officer in collaboration. The Committee's aspiration is to have a fair and robust procedure which is never used.

It will continue to develop and strengthen its role in embedding a positive culture of ethical governance. Measures of success will be a decreased number of complaints, satisfactory resolution of any complaints which

are received and increased overall public perception of City of York Council as a Council of integrity.

ⁱ <https://www.local.gov.uk/our-support/guidance-and-resources/civility-public-life-resources-councillors>

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Work Plan for Joint Standards Committee 2023-24

Meeting Date (4.00pm start time)	Items	Notes
20 April 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft Annual Report for Municipal Year 2022-2023 • Monitoring report in respect of complaints received • Update on the Member Training Programme • Review of Standards policies and procedures. • Review of Work Plan 	Standard Item
7 th June 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitoring report in respect of complaints received • Review of Work Plan 	Standard Item
21 st September 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitoring report in respect of complaints received • Review of Work Plan 	Standard Item
21 st November 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitoring report in respect of complaints received • Review of Work Plan 	Standard Item
31 st January 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitoring report in respect of complaints received • Review of Work Plan 	Standard Item

21 st March 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Monitoring report in respect of complaints received• Draft Annual Report for Municipal Year 2023-2024• Review of Work Plan	Standard Item
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Joint Standards Committee**20 April 2023**

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 complaints.

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 this, it reviews all code of conduct complaints.
3. The Monitoring Officer provides a regular report to facilitate such review.
4. The table attached at Annex A provides information about open complaints.
5. The table attached at Annex B provides information about complaints closed since last JSC.

Commentary on Case Logs**Open cases**

6. Case reference 2022/18 is under investigation by a CYC lawyer. Witness Interviews have been completed and the investigator originally expected to complete a draft report by the end of January

2023. Further information was however highlighted by the parties and that is being considered. This is the only remaining long standing investigation which unfortunately has been the subject of significant delay.

7. Case references 2023/04, 2023/05 and 2023/06 were all received shortly before the pre election period and will not be actively advanced until after the May poll.

Recently closed cases

8. Case references 2023/01 and 2023/02 were considered twice by the JSC sub committee which ultimately found no breach. Case references 2022/13 and 14 were investigated together fully by a CYC lawyer but withdrawn following circulation of the draft report owing to the death of one of the subject members. Case reference 2022/16 was fully investigated by a CYC lawyer and a finding of no breach was adopted by the Monitoring Officer following consultation with the IP. Case reference 2023/03 (a parish matter) was filtered by the JSC sub committee as not capable of constituting a breach of the Member Code. A separate complaint concerning the same subject is ongoing under the parish council's own process.

Implications

Financial

Not applicable to this report.

Human Resources (HR)

Not applicable to this report.

Equalities

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

As detailed within the report.

Crime and Disorder, Information Technology and Property

Not applicable to this report.

Recommendations

That the Joint Standards Committee notes the report, in order 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:**

Frances Harrison

Deputy Monitoring Officer

**Report
Approved**

Date 12th January
2023

Wards Affected: *List wards or tick box to indicate all*

All

For further information please contact the author of the report

Background Papers:

- Annex A – Table showing open complaints received.
- Annex B – Table showing received complaints closed since last JSC.

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Open Complaints Log - Public

Case ref	City or Parish	Complainant	Date Received	Nature of Complaint	Status / updates
2022/18	CYC	Resident	12/08/22	This complaint is as a result of ongoing matters at the Parish Council. The complainant alleges the Cllrs behaviour is not in line with the code of conduct.	<p>This complaint is being assessed by the Deputy Monitoring Officer.</p> <p>Views of the IP sought.</p> <p>Complaint assessed and will progress to investigation. Parties notified.</p> <p>Witness Interviews have been completed and the investigator expects to complete a draft report by the end of January 2023.</p>
2023/04	CYC & Parish	Parish	15/03/23	The complainant alleges the Councillor breached the code of conduct by not declaring an interest at a Town Council meeting and did not leave the room when the agenda item was discussed and voted on.	This complaint is currently being assessed by the Monitoring Officer.
2023/05	CYC & Parish	Parish	15/03/23	The complainant alleges the Councillor has not responded to resident queries or provided evidence to back up any claims the Councillor made in public.	Referred to Assessment Sub-Committee to determine whether complaint should progress to investigation.
2023/06	CYC & Parish	Parish	24/03/23	The complainant alleges the Councillor breached section 3 paragraph 1 of the code of conduct and has used social media to disrespect a parish council.	This complaint is currently being assessed by the Monitoring Officer.

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Recently Closed Complaints Log - Public

Case ref	City or Parish	Complainant	Date Received	Nature of Complaint	Status / updates
2023/01	CYC	Parish	18/01/23	The complainant alleges the Cllr made false accusations and offensive statements via the comments section on the York Press website therefore breaching the code of conduct by failing to treat others with respect.	<p>Referred to Assessment Sub-Committee to determine whether complaint should progress to investigation. Parties notified.</p> <p>Assessment Sub-Committee determined no breach of the code was found, parties notified. Complaint closed.</p>
2022/13	Parish	Parish	29/04/22	The complainant alleges the Parish Councillor has routinely refused to comply with the Parish Council's Code of Conduct at multiple Parish Council meetings.	<p>This complaint is currently being assessed by the Deputy Monitoring Officer.</p> <p>Views of the IP sought.</p> <p>Complaint assessed and will progress to investigation. Parties notified.</p> <p>A draft report has been prepared and circulated to parties for comment. Comments received in response are now being analysed and a final report is expected to be completed by the end of January 2023.</p> <p>Complaint withdrawn by complainant 08/03/23.</p>
2022/14	Parish	Parish	29/04/22	The complainant alleges the Parish Councillor did not declare an interest with regards to a Motion at a Parish Council meeting and did vote in favour of the Motion.	<p>This complaint is currently being assessed by the Deputy Monitoring Officer.</p> <p>Views of the IP sought.</p>

Recently Closed Complaints Log - Public

Case ref	City or Parish	Complainant	Date Received	Nature of Complaint	Status / updates
					<p>Complaint assessed and will progress to investigation. Parties notified.</p> <p>A draft report has been prepared and circulated to parties for comment. Comments received in response are now being analysed and a final report is expected to be completed by the end of January 2023.</p> <p>Complaint withdrawn by complainant 08/03/23.</p>
2022/16	CYC	CYC	23/05/22	The complainant alleges the Cllr breached the code of conduct in a comment made online. The complainant alleges the comment breached the code and brings the Local Authority into disrepute.	<p>This complaint is being assessed by the Monitoring Officer.</p> <p>Views of the IP sought.</p> <p>Complaint assessed and will progress to investigation. Parties notified.</p> <p>This investigation has been delayed by staff sickness absence. Due to difficulty identifying mutually convenient dates for interviews, witness evidence is now being collated via written questions.</p> <p>Investigation concluded and found no breach of the code. Parties notified and complaint closed.</p>

Recently Closed Complaints Log - Public

Case ref	City or Parish	Complainant	Date Received	Nature of Complaint	Status / updates
2022/17	CYC	CYC	23/05/22	The complainant alleges the Cllr breached the code of conduct in a comment made online. The complainant alleges the comment breached sections 5.1 and 6 of the code.	<p>This complaint is being assessed by the Monitoring Officer.</p> <p>Views of the IP sought.</p> <p>Complaint assessed and will progress to investigation. Parties notified.</p> <p>This investigation has been delayed by staff sickness absence. Due to difficulty identifying mutually convenient dates for interviews, witness evidence is now being collated via written questions.</p>
2023/02	CYC	CYC	21/01/23	The complainant alleges the Cllr made false accusations and offensive statements via the comments section on the York Press website therefore breaching the code of conduct by failing to treat others with respect, bringing the council into disrepute and attempting to bully and intimidate.	<p>Referred to Assessment Sub-Committee to determine whether complaint should progress to investigation. Parties notified.</p> <p>Assessment Sub-Committee determined a breach of the code was found and agreed to seek informal resolution by way of a written apology. Parties notified and complaint will be closed if informal resolution is accepted.</p> <p>Informal resolution was not accepted, complaint referred to a second JSC sub-committee for further review.</p>

Recently Closed Complaints Log - Public

Case ref	City or Parish	Complainant	Date Received	Nature of Complaint	Status / updates
					Assessment Sub-Committee determined no breach of the code was found. Parties notified and complaint closed.
2023/03	CYC	Resident	22/02/23	The complainant alleges the Councillor was disrespectful by prematurely throwing away flowers left at a grave.	<p>Referred to Assessment Sub-Committee to determine whether complaint should progress to investigation. Parties notified.</p> <p>Assessment Sub-Committee determined no breach of the code was found. Parties notified and complaint closed.</p>

By virtue of paragraph(s) 2 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A
of the Local Government Act 1972.

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