



Joint Standards Committee

To: Councillors Carol Runciman (Chair) Fisher, Pavlovic, Kent and Steward (CYC Members)

Councillors Waudby (Vice-Chair) Chambers and Geoghegan-Breen (Parish Council Members)

Roseleen Mazza (Independent Person)

Date: Thursday, 22 January 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 5 - 6)

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 9 (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 7 - 10)

To approve and sign the minutes of the meeting of the Joint Standards Committee held on 01 December 2025.

5. 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 20 January 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.

6. Review of Allegation Handling Arrangements

Update

Members are asked to consider and provide feedback on the proposed draft changes to Appendix 29 of the Council's constitution. [Report to follow]

7. Review of Work Plan

(Pages 11 - 12)

To consider the Committee's work plan for the current year and decide whether any amendments or additions are required.

8. Urgent Business

Any other business which the Chair decides is urgent under the Local Government Act 1972.

9. Monitoring Report on Complaints Received

To receive a routine update report on recent standards complaints. [Report to follow]

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 (Polish)
własnym języku.

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	1 December 2025
Present	Councillors Fisher, Pavlovic, Runciman (Chair), Kent, Steward (CYC Members) Councillors Waudby (Vice-Chair), Chambers and Geoghegan-Breen (Parish Council Members)
Apologies	Ms R Mazza (Independent Person)
Officers Present	Julie Gallagher, Head of Democratic Services Chris Coss, Head of Legal Services

17. Apologies for Absence (4.02 pm)

Apologies were received and noted for Rose Mazza, Independent Person.

18. 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.

19. Exclusion of Press and Public (4.02 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).

20. Minutes (4.02 pm)

Resolved: That the minutes of the meeting of the Joint Standards Committee held on 16 September 2025 be approved as a correct record.

21. Public Participation (4.03 pm)

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

22. Appendix 29 - Joint Standards Committee Procedures (4.03 pm)

The Head of Legal Services introduced his report on the review of handling arrangements for Code of Conduct breach allegations. He noted the requirements for investigations to be fair, objective, impartial and quick. He emphasised that only the Joint Standards Committee (JSC) could find a breach and apply sanctions and highlighted that the revised process removed the need for sub-committees. The matter of quoracy, which presently stands at four, was raised, noting that an uneven quorum should be considered for this type of decision-making committee.

In relation to the draft appendix 29, members noted that Haxby has a town council.

Members discussed the process of managing witnesses at hearings and, following debate, were largely in support of the process outlined in the draft appendix. In relation to the matter of quoracy, members leaned towards a quoracy of five, which, they felt, would provide a more balanced opinion. Members were also in agreement that if a Councillor received a formal reprimand, a record of this should be available on the council website.

Officers clarified that the formal reprimand for a Parish Councillor needed to be issued through, rather than by, the Parish Clerk. They also confirmed that there was no legal power to enforce sanctions, however, an informal sanction could be reviewed and progressed further to a formal sanction, should no action by the subject member have taken place.

Resolved: That members take some time to consider the draft appendix and submit their comments ahead of the Christmas period.

Reason: To allow a revised draft of appendix 29 to be brought to the committee at the following meeting of the committee in January.

23. Review of Work Plan (4.55 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:

- Update to Appendix 29

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

24. Monitoring Report on Complaints Received (4.57 pm)

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

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 5.11 pm.

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Work Plan for Joint Standards Committee 2025/26

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

Pending items for consideration:

- Review of Citywide Democratic Engagement of Parished and Non Parished areas
- Local Government Standards Framework Update
- Parish Council Liaison