



Joint Standards Committee

- To:** Councillors Fisher, Pavlovic, Runciman, Kent and Steward (CYC Members)
- Councillors Chambers, Geogheghan-Breen and Waudby (Parish Council Members)
- M Fynn, S Hollingworth and R Mazza (Independent Persons)
- Date:** Monday, 20 July 2026
- Time:** 4.00 pm
- Venue:** West Offices, Station Rise, York

AGENDA

- 1. Appointment of Chair**
To appoint a Chair of the Joint Standards Committee from the City of York committee members, for the 2026/27 municipal year, as per Article 10, paragraphs 1.2 and 1.3 of the Constitution.
- 2. Appointment of Vice-Chair**
To appoint a Vice Chair of the Joint Standards Committee from the Parish Council committee members, for the 2026/27 municipal year, as per Article 10, paragraphs 1.2 and 1.3 of the Constitution.
- 3. Apologies for Absence**
To receive and note apologies for absence.

4. 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.]

5. Exclusion of Press and Public

To consider the exclusion of the press and public from the meeting during consideration of the following:

Annexes A(ii) and B (ii) to agenda item 10 (Monitoring report in Respect of Complaints Received) on the grounds that they contain information relating to the identity of individuals, and that the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

This information is classed as exempt under paragraph 2 of Schedule 12A to Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as revised by The Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006).

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 Thursday, 16 July 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. Minutes** (Pages 9 - 12)
To approve and sign the minutes of the meeting of the Joint Standards Committee held on 18 May 2026.
- 8. Review of Work Plan** (Pages 13 - 14)
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 15 - 34)
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 (ہولی) میں بھی میا 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	18 May 2026
Present	Councillors Runciman (Chair), Fisher, Pavlovic, Kent, Steward (CYC Members) Councillors Waudby (Vice-Chair), Chambers, Geogheghan-Breen (Parish Council Members) Mr M Fynn and Mrs S Hollingworth (Independent Persons)
Officers Present	Julie Gallagher, Head of Democratic Services Chris Coss, Head of Legal Services

42. Apologies for Absence (4.01pm)

Apologies were received and noted for Rose Mazza (Independent Person).

43. Declarations of Interest (4.02pm)

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.

44. Exclusion of Press and Public (4.02pm)

Resolved: That the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the exempt versions of Annexes A(ii) and B(ii) to Agenda Item 10 (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.

45. Minutes (4.03pm)

Resolved: That the minutes of the meeting of the Joint Standards Committee held on 19 March 2026 be approved and signed as a correct record.

46. Public Participation (4.03pm)

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

47. Update Report from Member Development Working Group (4.03pm)

Members considered an update from the Head of Democratic Services in relation to the work of the Member Development Working Group. In response to questions from members it was reported that:

- Those members without CYC laptops and/or phones were kept up to date via Political Assistants and Group Leaders. Independent members were also reached out to separately.
- There was some work taking place on systems to help manage casework.
- Councillors should be using their '.gov' email addresses, as per the advice of the Monitoring Officer.
- There had been approximately 30-50% member uptake for training, most sessions were also recorded for upload to the Members' Portal, or alternative formats and dates had been offered.

Resolved: That the update be noted.

Reason: To ensure committee members have oversight of the work of the Member Development Working Group.

48. Parish Liaison Update (4.12pm)

Cllr Pavlovic, Chair of the Parish Liaison Group, provided a verbal update on the work of the group and highlighted some of the topics that had been covered recently, these included the Local Plan and Neighbourhood Plans, highways issues and chargeback to CYC/double taxation. He noted that the Parish Council Charter had been refreshed and requested that a copy be shared with members. In response to questions from members, he reported that Parish Council members were co-

opted to the Liaison Group, and that the meetings were open to all parish councillors should they wish to attend.

A future report was requested in due course.

Resolved:

- i. That the update be noted, and
- ii. A report be brought back to the committee at a later date.

Reason: To ensure that members are kept updated with the work of the Parish Council Liaison Group.

49. Review Of Work Plan (4.32pm)

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

Resolved: That the work plan be approved.

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

50. Monitoring Report on Complaints Received (4.32pm)

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 4.00 pm and finished at 4.41 pm.

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Work Plan for Joint Standards Committee 2026/27

<u>Meeting Date</u> (4.00pm start time)	<u>Items</u>	<u>Notes</u>
20 July 2026	• Review of Work Plan • Monitoring report in respect of complaints received.	
24 September 2026	• Review of Work Plan. • Monitoring report in respect of complaints received.	
19 November 2026	• Review of Work Plan • Monitoring report in respect of complaints received.	
21 January 2027	• Review of Work Plan • Monitoring report in respect of complaints received.	

Pending items for consideration:

- Reports on the operation of:
 - Register of Members' Interests and the system of Declarations of Members' Interests
 - Gifts and Hospitality for both Councillors and Officers
- Parish Council Liaison Report
- Review of Citywide Democratic Engagement of Parished and Non Parished areas

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Joint Standards Committee**20 July 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 four open cases. Annex A refers.

Cases closed since last JSC

4. One case has been closed since the last committee meeting. 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**

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Date 9 July 2026

Wards Affected:

All

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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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Annex A (i)

PUBLIC - Open Complaints Log

Case ref	City or Parish	Complainant	Date Received	Nature of Complaint	Status / updates	Officer
2026/02	Parish	1 x Resident	14/01/26	Concerns regarding various breaches of the Parish Code of Conduct.	This complaint is currently being assessed by the Deputy Monitoring Officer. IP views sought.	CC
2026/09	CYC	1 x Resident	09/05/2026	This complaint is regarding a leaflet that the complainant believes contains wording that is racist and discriminatory.	This complaint is currently being assessed by the Deputy Monitoring Officer. IP views sought.	CC
2026/10	CYC	1 x Resident	11/05/2026	This complaint is regarding the conduct of the member at the Haxby Annual Town Council and his bullying and threatening behaviour throughout the meeting.	This complaint is currently being assessed by the Deputy Monitoring Officer. IP views sought.	CC
2026/11	2 x CYC	MP	16/06/2026	The complaint is regarding a letter which has been shared by 2 Councillors regarding changes proposed by the Boundary Commission. The complainant alleges the communication is misleading.	This complaint is currently being assessed by the Deputy Monitoring Officer. The 2 Councillors involved have been approached for a response they have 10 working days to reply (25.6) once the responses received, they will be assessed by the IP. A response has now been received from both of the Cllrs and IPs advice is being sought.	JG

PUBLIC - Open Complaints Log

Annex B (i)

PUBLIC - Recently Closed Complaints Log

Case ref	City or Parish	Complainant	Date Received	Nature of Complaint	Status / updates	Officer
2026/12	Parish	1 x Resident	22/06/2026	The complaint is regarding the conduct of the Cllr in a Parish meeting.	This complaint is currently being assessed by the Deputy Monitoring Officer. The complaint has been assessed but it does not pass the gateway test, so no action taken.	JG

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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
2025/09	CYC	York resident	18/09/2025	The complainant alleges that the Councillor has not responded to them on multiple occasions.	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.	N/A	N/A
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	N/A	N/A

Complaint Number	Parish or CYC Cllr	Complainant	Date of Complaint	Nature of the complaint	Progress of Complaint	Resolution	Resolution completed
					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 regarding a planning application and was not impartial	In considering the matter all parties were in agreement that minuting the Councillor's confirmation of his address at the meeting, could have provided reassurance about the maintenance of openness. Accordingly, it is recommended that these matters are recorded at future Parish Council meetings. It was recommended the Clerk and Parish Council undertake refresher Code of Conduct Training.		
2025/12	CYC	Resident	12/11/2025	The complainant alleged that Councillors have not responded to email correspondence they have received, and in not doing so breached the Code of Conduct.	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	N/A	N/A

Complaint Number	Parish or CYC Cllr	Complainant	Date of Complaint	Nature of the complaint	Progress of Complaint	Resolution	Resolution completed
					disrespect, or of bringing the role or Authority into disrepute and therefore does not constitute a breach of the code. Parties notified, complaint closed. No further action.		
2025/13	CYC	Resident	15/12/2025 Closed 26/01/2026	Complainant alleged the Councillor had 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 sought.	A letter of advice sent to the Councillor, with the recommendation of further training.	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	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	Informal Resolution: training regarding social media use	Training offered.

Complaint Number	Parish or CYC Cllr	Complainant	Date of Complaint	Nature of the complaint	Progress of Complaint	Resolution	Resolution completed
				and 3.7 of the code of conduct.	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 independently volunteered. recommendation for additional		
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.	N/A	N/A
2026/01	CYC	Resident	06/01/2026 Closed 22/01/2026	The complainant refers to the conduct of a Councillor in relation to a	As the subject member was a member of the Council's Executive the matter was referred to a meeting of the Joint Standards Sub Committee.	N/A	N/A

Complaint Number	Parish or CYC Cllr	Complainant	Date of Complaint	Nature of the complaint	Progress of Complaint	Resolution	Resolution completed
				planning application.	The Sub Committee met and resolved that the matter wasn't in 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.	N/A	N/A
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.	Advisory note sent and taken to Group Leaders.
2026/04	CYC	Resident	13/02/26 Closed	The complaint relates to specific conduct by a member of the Executive.	As the complainant was a member of the Council's Executive the matter was referred to a meeting of the Joint Standards Sub Committee.	N/A	N/A

Complaint Number	Parish or CYC Cllr	Complainant	Date of Complaint	Nature of the complaint	Progress of Complaint	Resolution	Resolution completed
					The Sub Committee met and resolved that the matter was not in scope and no further action was required.		
2026/05	Parish	Public	25/02/26 Closed 05/03/26	The complaint relates to the Cllr breaching the code of conduct and abusing their position.	This complaint was assessed by the Deputy Monitoring Officer and IP views were sought. After careful consideration it did not pass the gateway test for a code of conduct issue.	N/A	N/A
2026/07	CYC	Public	09/03/26 Closed	Related to community posts on social media, misuse of their position as a Cllr.	This complaint was assessed by the Deputy Monitoring Officer and IP views were sought. Posts were in relation to the member's work as a ward / parish Cllr, no further action.	N/A	N/A
2026/08	Parish	Public	16/04/2026 Closed 20/04/26	The complaint relates to the Cllr breaching the code of conduct.	This complaint was assessed by the Deputy Monitoring Officer. The Cllr was not acting in his role as a Parish Councillor when the alleged incidents took place, therefore the code of conduct is not engaged. No action taken	N/A	N/A

Complaint Number	Parish or CYC Cllr	Complainant	Date of Complaint	Nature of the complaint	Progress of Complaint	Resolution	Resolution completed
2026/12	Parish	1 x Resident	22/06/2026	The complaint is regarding the conduct of the Cllr in a Parish meeting.	This complaint is currently being assessed by the Deputy Monitoring Officer. The complaint did not pass the gateway test.	N/A	JG

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

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