



Standards Committee

Agenda

Wednesday, 14th October, 2026
at 4.00 pm

in the

**Council Chamber, Town Hall, Saturday
Market Place, King's Lynn and [available to
view on YouTube.](#)**



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**STANDARDS COMMITTEE
AGENDA**

DATE: WEDNESDAY, 14TH OCTOBER, 2026

**VENUE: KEMPE ROOM - TOWN HALL, SATURDAY
MARKET PLACE, KING'S LYNN PE30 5DQ**

TIME: 4.00 pm

1. APPOINTMENT OF VICE - CHAIR FOR THE MEETING.

To appoint a Vice – Chair for the meeting.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

To receive any apologies for absence.

3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING (Pages 5 - 6)

To approve the minutes of the previous meeting held on the 8th September 2026.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (Page 7)

Please indicate if there are any interest which should be declared. A declaration of interest should indicate the nature of the interest (if not already declared on the Register of Interests) and the agenda time to which it relates. If a disclosable pecuniary interest is declared, the Member should withdraw from the room whilst the matter is discussed.

These declarations apply to all Members present, whether the Member is part of the meeting, attending to speak as a local Member on any item or simply observing the meeting from the public seating area.

5. URGENT BUSINESS

To consider any business which, by reason of special circumstances the Chair proposed to accept as urgent under Section 100(b)(4)(b) of the Local Government Act 1972

6. MEMBERS PRESENT UNDER STANDING ORDER 34

Members wishing to speak pursuant to Standing Order 34 should inform the Chair of their intention to do so and on what items they wish to be heard before a decision on that item is taken.

7. CHAIR'S CORRESPONDENCE (IF ANY)

8. DISPENSATION FOR MEMBERS PARTICIPATING IN COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW (Pages 8 - 11)

9. SUMMARY OF 2025-2026 CODE OF CONDUCT COMPLAINTS
(Pages 12 - 22)

10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

To be arranged.

To: Members of the Standards Committee

Councillors B Ayres, S Bearshaw, A Moore (Vice-Chair), J Osborne, S Ring, S Sandell and A Ware (Chair)

For Further information, please contact:

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King's Court, Chapel Street
King's Lynn PE30 1EX

BOROUGH COUNCIL OF KING'S LYNN & WEST NORFOLK**STANDARDS COMMITTEE**

Minutes from the Meeting of the Standards Committee held on Monday, 8th September, 2025 at 4.30 pm in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Saturday Market Place, King's Lynn PE30 5DQ

PRESENT: Councillors S Bearshaw, A Moore, J Osborne (Vice - Chair), S Sandell (Chair) and J Ratcliffe (Substitute)

OFFICER PRESENT: Alexa Baker – Monitoring Officer

PRESENT UNDER STANDING ORDER 34: Councillor A Ware on Zoom.

11 **APPOINTMENT OF VICE - CHAIR FOR THE MEETING**

RESOLVED: Councillor Osborne was appointed Vice - Chair for the meeting.

12 **APOLOGIES OF ABSENCE**

Apologies of absence were received from Councillor S Ring and B Ayres.

13 **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

RESOLVED: The minutes from the meeting held on the 16th July 2025 were agreed as a correct record.

14 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There was none.

15 **URGENT BUSINESS**

There was no urgent business.

16 **MEMBERS PRESENT UNDER STANDING ORDER 34**

Councillor A Ware was present on Zoom, Under Standing Order 34.

17 **CHAIR'S CORRESPONDENCE**

There was none.

18 **DISPENSATIONS TO 'TWIN-HATTERS'**

[Click here to view the recording of this item on YouTube.](#)

The Monitoring Officer presented the report.

The Chair invited questions and comments from the Committee.

Under Standing Order 34, Councillor Ware thanked the Monitoring Officer for the clear explanation.

Councillor Ratcliffe echoed the thanks to the Monitoring Officer for the helpful explanation. She commented the general dispensation in the context of local government reorganisation was reasonable. She referred to 3.3 of the report which highlighted the requirements to comply with legal obligation of biased and predetermination and commented she hoped the Monitoring Officer would refer to this in the advice given to Twin Hatters.

Councillor Bearshaw commented Local Government Reorganisation was being done and wasn't a choice made and therefore Borough Council and County Council would then not exist, and the dispensation provided a safer position.

The Vice-Chair, Councillor Osborne referred to 1.8 of the report which highlighted 10 out of 55 Members were Twin Hatters and 2.2 was in the best interest of the public for Members with County experience participate in the debate.

RESOLVED: The Standards Committee agree the following:

1. To grant a general dispensation to Borough Council Members that are also Members of Norfolk County Council ('Twin-Hatters') from both the requirements of section 31 (4) of the Localism Act 2011, and also the requirements within the Councillor's Code of Conduct in relation to managing interests, on decisions relating to Local Government Reorganisation (LGR), including approval of the final submission to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG).
2. The duration of this general dispensation shall have effect for a maximum of four years or until the vesting of a new unitary authority, whichever is sooner.

19 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

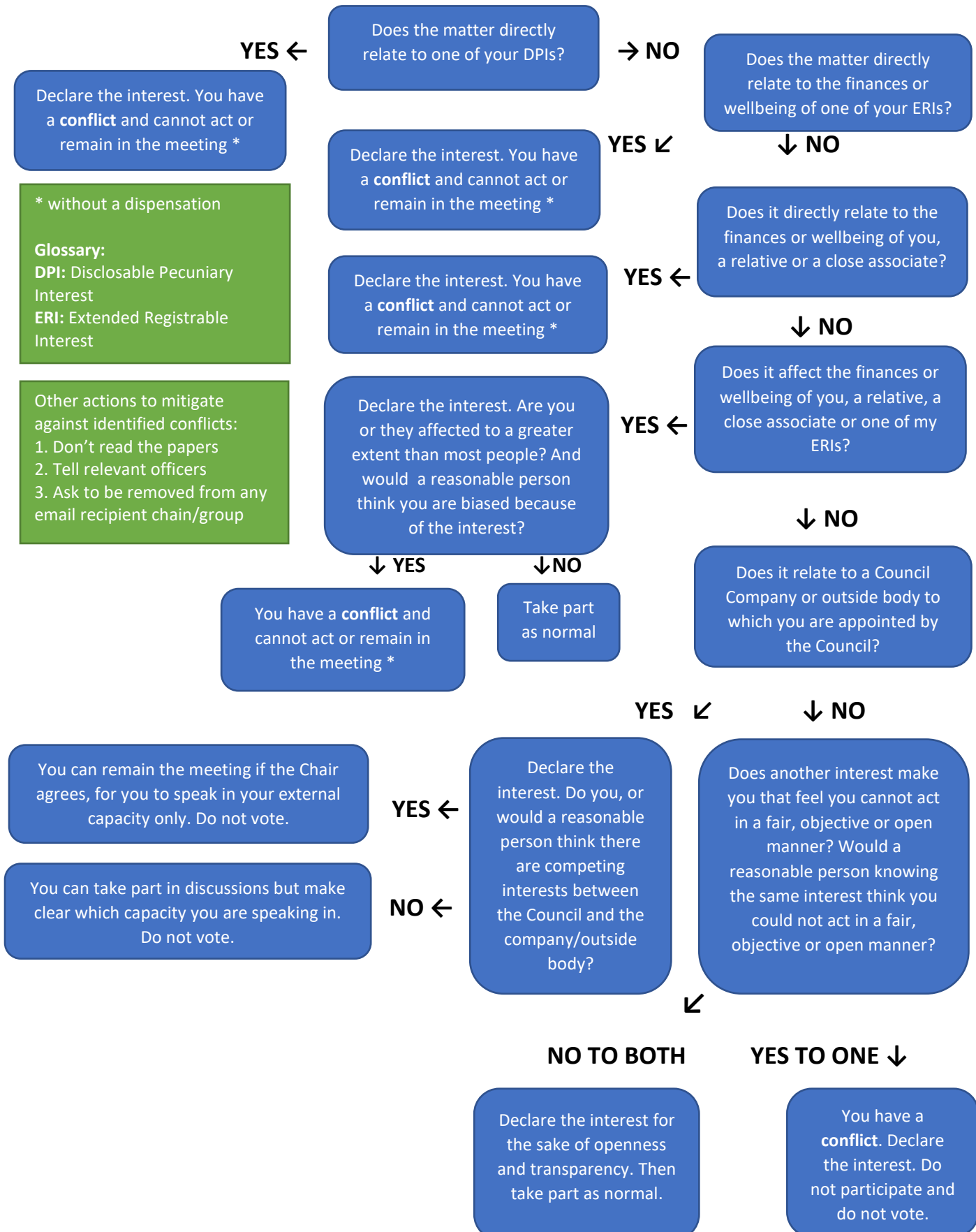
The next meeting was to be scheduled when required.

The meeting closed at 4.45 pm

DECLARING AN INTEREST AND MANAGING ANY CONFLICTS FLOWCHART



START



STANDARDS COMMITTEE REPORT

REPORT TO:	Standards Committee		
DATE:	14 th October 2026		
TITLE:	Dispensation for Members Participating in Community Governance Review		
REPORT AUTHOR:	James Arrandale, Deputy Monitoring Officer		
OPEN/EXEMPT	Open	WILL BE SUBJECT TO A FUTURE CABINET REPORT:	~~Yes~~ /No

REPORT SUMMARY/COVER PAGE

PURPOSE OF REPORT/SUMMARY:
To recommend that the Standards Committee grant dispensations to Borough Councillors who represent areas subject to a Community Governance Review (CGR), enabling them to participate in discussion and voting on matters relating to that review notwithstanding any relevant interests arising from their role as a Borough, Town or Parish Councillor.
KEY ISSUES:
Members representing an area affected by a CGR may have local knowledge and a representative role that is directly relevant to the review. At the same time, interests must be declared and managed transparently. The Council's Constitution authorises the Standards Committee to grant dispensations and to determine applications under the Localism Act 2011 or other requirements within the Member Code of Conduct.
RECOMMENDATIONS:
• To grant a dispensation to Borough Councillors who are also Members of Town or Parish Councils affected by a Community Governance Review. • The dispensation shall permit those Members to remain in the meeting, participate in debate and vote on matters relating to the relevant Community Governance Review. • The dispensation shall remain in force for the duration of the relevant Community Governance Review or until otherwise determined by the Standards Committee.
REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS:
To enable elected Members to represent their communities fully during the Community Governance Review process whilst ensuring interests are managed transparently and in accordance with the Localism Act 2011 and the Member Code of Conduct.

REPORT DETAIL

1. Background

1.1 The Council is undertaking Community Governance Reviews within the Borough.

1.2 Community Governance Reviews consider governance arrangements for local communities, including parish boundaries, parish councils and related electoral arrangements. The Electoral Arrangements Committee has responsibility for overseeing Community Governance Reviews and making recommendations to Full Council.

1.3 It is recognised practice that dispensations may be granted to Members representing areas subject to a Community Governance Review to enable them to participate in the review process.

1.4 The granting of dispensations is delegated to the Standards Committee under the Constitution. The Committee has authority both to grant dispensations and determine applications under the Localism Act 2011 and the Member Code of Conduct.

2. Proposal and reasons for grant general dispensations

2.1 Section 33 of the Localism Act 2011 allows a relevant authority to grant a dispensation where, having regard to all relevant circumstances, it considers it appropriate to do so.

2.2 It is considered appropriate to grant a dispensation in this instance because:

- Members have been elected to represent communities directly affected by the review.
- Their participation will assist informed decision-making.
- The communities affected should continue to benefit from representation throughout the review process.
- Refusing a dispensation may unnecessarily restrict Member participation where local knowledge would be valuable.

2.3 Any dispensation granted would relate solely to interests arising from membership of an affected Town or Parish Council and would not provide any dispensation in respect of bias or predetermination. Members must continue to comply with all relevant legal obligations in this regard.

3. Issues for the Panel to Consider

3.1 Members of the unparished area are affected by a Community Governance Review and may have interests arising from their role. Those interests may require management under the Councillor Code of Conduct and, depending on the circumstances, may restrict a Member's ability to participate in debate or voting unless a dispensation is granted. The Standards Committee has delegated

authority to determine applications for dispensations under the Localism Act 2011 and the Council's Constitution.

3.2 The Committee should consider whether granting a dispensation would be in the interests of persons living within the area affected by the Community Governance Review. The Members concerned have been elected to represent local communities and may be well placed to contribute local knowledge and understanding of community governance arrangements. Granting a dispensation would enable those Members to continue to represent their residents throughout the review process.

3.3 The Committee should consider whether the proposed dispensation is proportionate and appropriately limited. In determining the application, Members may wish to consider:

- whether the dispensation should permit both speaking and voting, or speaking only;
- whether the dispensation should apply to all stages of the Community Governance Review process or only specified meetings;
- whether any additional conditions should be attached to the dispensation; and
- the duration of the dispensation.

3.4 The Committee should also be aware that a dispensation only relates to the management of interests. It does not remove a Member's obligation to act fairly and lawfully, nor does it provide protection where a Member is biased or predetermined. Members granted a dispensation must continue to comply with all relevant provisions of the Member Code of Conduct and public law principles governing decision-making.

3.5 The Committee may also wish to take into account that it is common practice to grant dispensations to Members who represent areas that are the subject of a Community Governance Review in order to facilitate their participation in the review process. This approach helps ensure that local communities continue to be represented whilst maintaining transparency through the formal dispensation process.

3.6 Finally, the Committee should consider whether the reasons advanced in support of the application satisfy one or more of the grounds contained within section 33 of the Localism Act 2011. In this case, it is considered that granting the dispensation would be in the interests of persons living in the authority's area and would enable effective democratic representation during consideration of Community Governance Review matters

4. Financial Implications

There are no specific financial implications arising from the recommendation of this report.

5. Any other Implications/Risks

Granting a dispensation provides clarity for Members regarding participation in Community Governance Review matters and reduces the risk of uncertainty regarding the management of interests.

6. Equal Opportunity Considerations

None.

7. Environmental Considerations

None.

8. Background Papers

Localism Act 2011
Borough Council Constitution
Standards Committee Terms of Reference

STANDARDS COMMITTEE REPORT

REPORT TO:	Standards Committee		
DATE:	05 October 2025		
MEETING DATE	14 October 2026		
TITLE:	Summary of 2025-2026 Code of Conduct Complaints		
REPORT AUTHOR:	Deputy Monitoring Officer		
OPEN/EXEMPT		WILL BE SUBJECT TO A FUTURE CABINET REPORT:	No

REPORT SUMMARY

PURPOSE OF REPORT/SUMMARY:
To place before Members (i) a summary and analysis of the Code of Conduct complaints received in the period 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026 against Borough Councillors and Parish Councillors, identifying issues for consideration.
KEY ISSUES:
Code of Conduct Complaints Forty-six complaints were received, of which 15 were directed at Borough Councillors and 31 were against Parish or Town Councillors. While this is a substantial increase from 21 complaints received the previous year, there were substantial clusters around specific events, and the overall figure is consistent with the previous 3 year average. Members are directed to Appendix A for the breakdown of the complaints made in 2025-2026 and to note the trends within the numbers. No complaints made during the year were subject to formal investigation. As per previous years, disrespectful conduct or perceived bullying, by Councillors was a common theme within many complaints. A small range of other issues also arose. Around half of complaints came from fellow members. This is a change from previous years where most complaints came from members of the public rather than fellow Councillors. Again, however, a number of the councillor complainants were grouped around specific events. A significant cluster of complaints was at Downham Market Town Council, in response to which the Monitoring Officer wrote to all Councillors.
RECOMMENDATIONS:
To note the contents of this report together with Appendix A, in the interests of promoting high standards of conduct by Councillors and co-opted members.
REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS:
To fulfil the Standard Committee's functions to monitor the implementation and operation of the Councillor Code of Conduct.

SUMMARY OF COMPLAINTS RECEIVED IN 2025-2026

1. Background – the Code of Conduct Guidance

- 1.1. The Borough Council is responsible for assessing Code of Conduct complaints in relation to its own Borough Councillors but also Code of Conduct complaints made against any Parish Councillor from a Parish within the Borough.
- 1.2. The relevant sections of the Borough Council's "*Guidance on Member Code of Conduct Complaints Handling*", approved by Standards Committee on 25 March 2025, are set out in the annex to this Report.

2. Parish and Borough Councillor Complaints Received

- 2.1. Twenty-one complaints were received during the period 2024-2025, of which fifteen were made against Parish Councillors and six were against Borough Councillors. This compares as follows with previous years:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Total Complaints</u>	<u>Against Parish Cllrs</u>	<u>Against Borough Cllrs</u>
2025/26	46	31	15
2024/25	21	14	7
2023/24	49	36	13
2022/23	30	18	12

This is a significant increase against the previous year, but not exceptional against the previous three-year average.

- 2.2. Members are directed to Appendix A for a further breakdown of the complaints.

3. Complaints against Borough Councillors

- 3.1. Fifteen complaints were made against Borough Councillors. However, this overstates the incidences of alleged misconduct:
 - 3.1.1. six complaints were originated by two complainants each claiming against the same three councillors, in respect of the same events.
 - 3.1.2. A further four complaints were brought by Parish/Town Councillors against a single councillor, again for the same conduct.
- 3.2. Taking this into account, there were only nine alleged instances of misconduct.

Nature of Alleged Breach and Underlying Subject Matter

- 3.3. Consistent with previous years, the most common allegation concerned disrespect; allegations of sex discrimination were raised in three cases, but were found to be without

any merit; allegations were also raised around failure to make reasonable adjustments, but were also not accepted.

- 3.4. No other patterns of breach occurred.

Councillor-on-Councillor and Employee complaints

- 3.5. Three of the complaints were made by a fellow Borough Councillor.

Vexatious/malicious/political motive of complainant

- 3.6. There was some evidence to support a conclusion of vexation/malice/political motivation in the grouped cases against the Borough Councillor regarding alleged disrepute, but not sufficient to make a positive finding.

Informal/Other Resolution

- 3.7. In one complaint, an apology was given voluntarily by the subject councillor.

4. Complaints against Parish Councillors

- 4.1. The 31 parish complaints are also comprised of substantial clusters, so there was a lower the number of individual instances of alleged misconduct.

- 4.2. The four complaints against Hockwold Parish Councillors were likewise all related, as were the complaints at Clenchwarton and Bircham, which involved different parties but the same Parish council business.

- 4.3. Strikingly, 13 complaints originated at Downham Market Town Council. Several were made on a grouped basis; subsequently another seven were raised by fellow councillors against a single councillor regarding a single event, in what was clearly a coordinated attack. In May 2026 the Monitoring Officer wrote to the Town Councillors instructing them that they should arrange some form of mediation.

Nature of Alleged Breach and Underlying Subject Matter

- 4.4. As per previous years, many of the complaints concern allegations of disrespect. In the cases where no further action was taken, the noticeable themes were either that the behaviour did not in fact appear disrespectful or was within the bounds of freedom of political speech.

- 4.5. A broad range of other issues arose with no clear pattern or subject matter.

Councillor-on-Councillor complaints

- 4.6. Aside from Downham Market, four of the Parish Councillor complaints were made by a fellow Parish Councillor. Based on the information available to the Monitoring Officer, it was not possible to conclude that any of these was “politically” rather than objectively motivated.

Vexatious/malicious/political motive of complainant

- 4.7. As above, six of the Downham Market complaints were identified as potentially vexatious, malicious and politically motivated (against none in 2024/25, and 7 of 49 in 2023/2024).

Investigation

- 4.8. None of the Parish Councillor complaints were referred to investigation.

Informal/Other resolution

- 4.9. One complaints was discontinued as it fell outside the remit of the Code of Conduct.
- 4.10. Informal advice was given regarding conflicts and declarations of interest.
- 4.11. In three other cases, apologies had been given voluntarily by the subject councillor.

GENERAL

5. Policy Implications

- 5.1. An effective standards regime forms part of the Council's Code of Corporate Governance. The Department for Housing, Communities and Local Government has recognised the 'Culture' of a local authority as one of the seven themes of good practice for running an authority that meets and delivers best value. The culture of a local authority is determined by its shared values, ethics and beliefs, how decisions are made, as well as how elected members and officers behave, interact and carry out their roles. The standards regime supports the process of monitoring the culture of the Borough Council and its Parishes, enabling all respective authorities to take action to address any relevant Councillor behaviour and thereby improve the culture of the organisation.

6. Financial Implications

There are no specific financial implications arising out of this report.

7. Legal Implications

None arising from this report. The Code of Conduct implements various statutory requirements on the Council.

8. Environmental Considerations

None arising out of this report.

9. Equality Impact Assessment

N/A as this is an informative report.

10. Risk Management Implications

None

11. Background Papers

Guidance on Member Code of Conduct Complaints Handling

Annex - Relevant sections of the Borough Council's "Guidance on Member Code of Conduct Complaints Handling"

2.8 First-Step Criteria

The first step is to assess your complaint against the following jurisdictional criteria:

- a. the complaint is against one or more named Councillors of the Borough Council or of a Parish Council;*
- b. the named Councillor was a Councillor at the time of the alleged conduct, and is still a serving Councillor;*
- c. the complaint relates to matters where the Councillor was acting as a Councillor or representative of the Council and it is not a private matter (i.e. the Subject Member must have been acting in their official capacity);*
- d. the complaint is, in substance, about the conduct of the named Councillor(s) and not dissatisfaction with a decision of the Borough Council or Parish Council*
- e. the complaint, if proven, could be a breach of the Code under which the Subject Member was operating.*

In relation to the final bullet point above, the Monitoring Officer will not only consider the parts of the Code of Conduct identified by you but will consider whether any other parts are engaged.

If the complaint fails one or more of the First-Step Criteria above, the complaint will not move onto the next stage of the process. You will be informed that no further action will be taken in respect of the complaint and the Subject Member will be informed that a complaint has been made about them, along with details of the complaint and confirmation that it has been rejected as it did not pass the First-Step Criteria. Unless the anonymity and confidentiality provisions above apply, your name as the Complainant will also be disclosed.

If there is any doubt about whether the First-Step Criteria have been met the complaint should proceed to the next stage. For example, if it is unclear whether the Councillor was acting in an official capacity or not then the complaint should proceed to the next stage.

...

2.11 Second-Step Criteria

We will then assess your complaints against the following Second-Step Criteria:

- a) Does the complaint contain sufficient evidence to demonstrate a reasonable prospect of a breach of the Code, even where further information is sought from the Complainant?*
- b) Is the matter serious enough and sufficiently in the public interest to warrant the public resource and expense of an investigation?*
- c) Are there alternative, more appropriate, remedies that should be explored first?*
- d) Does the complaint, in the view of the Monitoring Officer, appear malicious, politically motivated, or 'tit for tat'?*
- e) Whether, even if proven, the complaint would not be serious enough to warrant any sanction (see section 5.1 on sanctions);*
- f) Whether a substantially similar complaint has previously been considered and no new material evidence has been submitted within the current administration;*
- g) Whether a substantially similar complaint has been submitted and accepted;*

- h) Does the complaint relate to conduct in the distant past? This would include consideration or any reason why there had been a delay in making the complaint;*
- i) Has the behaviour that is the subject of the complaint already dealt with? For example, through an apology at the relevant meeting;*
- j) Is it about someone who is seriously ill, thus impeding their ability to engage in the complaint process?*
- k) Had the Subject Member acted on the advice of an officer or the Independent Person in relation to the conduct complained of?*
- l) Did the conduct arise from lack of experience or training?*
- m) Is the subject matter of the complaint being dealt with through any other complaints, legal or regulatory process.*

The above criteria are intended to be indicative rather than prescriptive, and the underlying public interest will always be considered when deciding on whether to take action on a complaint.

2.12 Decision

2.12.1 Initial assessment decisions

The Monitoring Officer will aim to complete their initial assessment of your complaint within 20 working days of receiving the complaint, subject to any extension of time provided to a Subject Member to provide their comments and any further clarifications sought from you.

Where the Subject Member has not commented and they have not provided a reasonable excuse for the delay, attempts will be made to ascertain that the Subject Member has received the correspondence. If after reasonable checks have been made and a response is still not received in a reasonable time, then the initial assessment will be undertaken, accounting for the lack of response and engagement of the Subject Member.

The Independent Person will be invited to give their views as part of the initial assessment, to be confirmed in writing, unless extraordinary circumstances exist, in the view of the Monitoring Officer, that the initial assessment should be undertaken without the views of the Independent Person.

One of the three following decisions will be reached on an allegation:

- no further action should be taken on the allegation;*
- the matter should be dealt with through a process of informal resolution in the first instance (see section on informal resolution) or;*
- the matter should be referred for a formal investigation (see section on investigations).*

3.3 Examples of informal resolution

- An apology;*
- Training by the subject member;*
- Policy/protocol change or adoption by the Council;*
- Provision of advice from the Monitoring Officer to the Subject Member; or*
- Mediation*

Appendix A – Standards Committee Report – 2025/26 Complaints

TABLE 1 – SUMMARY OF COMPLAINTS

No.	Complainant	Group/Parish	Outcome	Complaint Category
COMPLAINTS AGAINST BOROUGH COUNCILLORS				
1.	Member of the Public	Independent Group	Complaint withdrawn	
2.	Member of the Public	Reform	Directed to Corporate Complaints/No further action	Bullying; dishonesty
3.	Former Employee	Non-aligned	No further action; apology offered	Breach of member/officer protocol
4.	Member of the Public	Independent Group	Discontinued by complainant	Failure to communicate w complainant
5.	Parish/Town Councillor	Independent Group	No further action	Disrepute
6.	Parish/Town Councillor	Independent Group	No further action	Disrepute
7.	Parish/Town Councillor	Independent Group	No further action	Disrepute
8.	Parish/Town Councillor	Independent Group	No further action	Disrepute
9.	Borough Councillor	Independent Group	No further action	Disrespect (sex discrimination)
10.	Borough Councillor	Independent Group	No further action	Disrespect (sex discrimination)
11.	Borough Councillor	Independent Group	No further action	Disrespect (sex discrimination)
12.	Member of the Public	Independent Group	No further action	Disrespect
13.	Member of the Public	Independent Group	No further action	Disrespect
14.	Member of the Public	Independent Group	No further action	Disrespect
15.	Parish Councillor	Independent Group	No further action	Disrespect; dishonesty; breach of procedure

Appendix A – Standards Committee Report – 2025/26 Complaints

COMPLAINTS AGAINST PARISH COUNCILLORS				
16.	Member of the Public	Bircham	Cllr resigned – no decision	
17.	Member of the Public	Downham Market	No further action	Disrespect/bullying
18.	Councillor	Heacham	Governance issue outwith Code of Conduct	
19.	Member of the Public	Clenchwarton	No further action, apology separately offered	Disrespect (swearing)
20.	Member of the Public	Marham	No further action	Disrespect
21.	Member of the Public	Clenchwarton	No further action, apology separately offered	Disrespect
22.	Councillor	Downham Market	No further action, apology at the time	Poor governance
23.	Councillor	Hunstanton	Councillor resigned – no decision	
24.	Councillor	Downham Market (6 cllrs)	Discontinued by complainant	
25.	Member of the Public	Bircham	No further action	Disrespect
26.	Member of the Public	Bircham	Discontinued by complainant	Disrespect
27.	Member of the Public	Bircham (4 cllrs)	No further action (same issue as above)	Disrespect/bullying; dishonesty; lack of objectivity
28.	Councillor	Downham Market	No further action	Failure to declare interest
29.	Member of the Public	Hunstanton	No further action	Lack of Objectivity
30.	Councillors	Downham Market	No further action	Bullying / failure to follow procedure
31.	Councillor	Downham Market	No further action	Breach of procedure (vexatious)
32.	Member of the Public	Downham Market	No further action	Breach of procedure
33.	Councillor	Downham Market	No further action	Breach of procedure (vexatious)
34.	Councillor	Downham Market	No further action	Breach of procedure (vexatious)

Appendix A – Standards Committee Report – 2025/26 Complaints

35.	Councillor	Downham Market	No further action	Breach of procedure (vexatious)
36.	Councillor	Downham Market	No further action	Breach of procedure (vexatious)
37.	Councillor	Downham Market	No further action	Breach of procedure (vexatious)
38.	Councillor	Grimston	Discontinued by complainant	
39.	Councillor	Downham Market	Discontinued due to action by MO	Bullying
40.	Member of the Public	Hockwold (all cllrs)	No further action	Breach of internal policy
41.	Member of the Public	Hockwold	No further action	Disrespect
42.	Member of the Public	Hockwold (all cllrs)	No further action	Breach of internal policy
43.	Member of the Public	Hockwold (all cllrs)	No further action	Breach of internal policy
44.	Member of the Public	Crimplesham (all cllrs)	No further action	Disrespect; failure to declare interests
45.	Councillor	Brancaster	Informal resolution – advice	Failure to declare interests
46.	Member of the Public	Terrington St Clement	No further action	Failure to declare interest

Appendix A – Standards Committee Report – 2025/26 Complaints

TABLE 2 – COMPLAINTS GROUPED BY SUBJECT GROUP/PARISH

Borough Council

Reform	Conservative	Independent Group	Labour	Progressive	WN Independent Group
1	0	13	0	0	1

Parishes

Parish	Number of Complaints
Bircham	4
Brancaster	1
Clenchwarton	2
Crimplesham	1
Downham Market	13
Grimston	1
Heacham	1
Hockwold-cum-Wilton	4
Hunstanton	2
Marham	1
Terrington St Clement	1

Appendix A – Standards Committee Report – 2025/26 Complaints

TABLE 3 – COMPLAINTS GROUPED BY COMPLAINANT

Councillor	Member of the Public	Officer
23	22	1

TABLE 4 – COMPLAINTS GROUPED BY OUTCOME

Outcome	Number of Complaints
Referral to Standards Committee	0
Informal resolution – advice provided	1
Informal resolution – apology given	4
No Further Action	31
Complaint Withdrawn	5
Discontinued – subject member resigned	3
Discontinued – no jurisdiction	2
Informal resolution – recommend civility	0
Informal resolution – warning to comply (Declaration of Interest)	0
Informal resolution – recommend conciliation	0
Informal resolution – recommend training	0