



Leicester
City Council

MEETING OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE

DATE: WEDNESDAY, 29 OCTOBER 2025

TIME: 5:30 pm

PLACE: Meeting Room 1.14, First Floor, City Hall, 115 Charles Street, Leicester, LE1 1FZ

Members of the Committee

Councillor Dr Barton (Chair)

Councillor Bajaj (Vice-Chair)

Councillors Cank, Joannou and Singh Sangha.

Ms Fiona Barber (Independent Member)

Mr Mike Galvin (Independent Member)

Ms Jayne Kelly (Independent Member)

Ms Alison Lockley (Independent Member)

Mr Simon Smith (Independent Member)

Standing Invitees:

Mr Michael Edwards (Independent Person)

Mr David Lindley (Independent Person)

Members of the Committee are summoned to attend the above meeting to consider the items of business listed overleaf.

for the Monitoring Officer

Officer contact: Jessica Skidmore (Governance Support Officer)

Governance Services, Leicester City Council
City Hall, 115 Charles Street, Leicester, LE1 1FZ

Information for members of the public

Attending meetings and access to information

You have the right to attend formal meetings such as full Council, committee meetings & Scrutiny Commissions and see copies of agendas and minutes. On occasion however, meetings may, for reasons set out in law, need to consider some items in private.

Dates of meetings and copies of public agendas and minutes are available on the Council's website at www.cabinet.leicester.gov.uk, from the Council's Customer Service Centre or by contacting us using the details below.

Making meetings accessible to all

Wheelchair access – Public meeting rooms at the City Hall are accessible to wheelchair users. Wheelchair access to City Hall is from the middle entrance door on Charles Street - press the plate on the right hand side of the door to open the door automatically.

Braille/audio tape/translation - If you require this please contact the Governance Services Officer (production times will depend upon equipment/facility availability).

Induction loops - There are induction loop facilities in City Hall meeting rooms. Please speak to the Governance Services Officer using the details below.

Filming and Recording the Meeting - The Council is committed to transparency and supports efforts to record and share reports of proceedings of public meetings through a variety of means, including social media. In accordance with government regulations and the Council's policy, persons and press attending any meeting of the Council open to the public (except Licensing Sub Committees and where the public have been formally excluded) are allowed to record and/or report all or part of that meeting. Details of the Council's policy are available at www.leicester.gov.uk or from Governance Services.

If you intend to film or make an audio recording of a meeting you are asked to notify the relevant Governance Services Officer in advance of the meeting to ensure that participants can be notified in advance and consideration given to practicalities such as allocating appropriate space in the public gallery etc.

The aim of the Regulations and of the Council's policy is to encourage public interest and engagement so in recording or reporting on proceedings members of the public are asked:

- ✓ to respect the right of others to view and hear debates without interruption;
- ✓ to ensure that the sound on any device is fully muted and intrusive lighting avoided;
- ✓ where filming, to only focus on those people actively participating in the meeting;
- ✓ where filming, to (via the Chair of the meeting) ensure that those present are aware that they may be filmed and respect any requests to not be filmed.

Further information

If you have any queries about any of the above or the business to be discussed, please contact Jessica Skidmore, e-mail: committees@leicester.gov.uk or call in at City Hall, 115 Charles Street, Leicester, LE1 1FZ.

For Press Enquiries - please phone the **Communications Unit on 454 4151**

PUBLIC SESSION

AGENDA

Fire / Emergency Evacuation

If the emergency alarm sounds, you must evacuate the building immediately by the nearest available fire exit and proceed to the area outside the Ramada Encore Hotel on Charles Street as directed by Governance Services staff. Further instructions will then be given.

1. Apologies for Absence

2. Declarations of Interest

Members will be asked to declare any interests they may have in the business to be discussed.

3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

**Appendix A
(Pages 1 - 6)**

The minutes of the meeting of the Standards Committee, held on 25th February 2025 have been circulated and Members are asked to confirm that they are a correct record.

4. Any Other Urgent Business

The Chair of the Standards Committee has agreed to hear the following items under Any Other Urgent Business to allow for the addition of a report on the outcome of the Standards Hearings Sub-Committee, which had taken place on 21st October 2025:

- Recruitment of Independent Members and Independent Persons to the Standards Committee
- Biennial Analysis of Member Complaints Report of Standards Committee July 2023 - June 2025
- Complaints Against Councillors - October 2025 Update
- Standards Hearing Panel Recommendations - Complaint 15/2024

5. Recruitment of Independent Members and Independent Persons to the Standards Committee

The Monitoring Officer to provide a verbal update on the process of recruiting Independent Members and Independent Persons to the Standards Committee.

6. Biennial Analysis of Member Complaints Report of Standards Committee July 2023 - June 2025

**Appendix B
(Pages 7 - 22)**

The Monitoring Officer submits the biennial report detailing an overview and

analysis of the registered Elected Member complaints for the period 1st July 2023 to 30th June 2025.

Members of the Public are to note that the Committee reserves the right to move into private session at any time, if required, should further information be requested or discussed that is in breach of paragraphs 1, 2 and 7c of the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985. Further information can be found under Item 7, Private Session of this agenda.

**7. Standards Hearing Panel Recommendations -
Complaint 15/2024**

**Appendix C
(Pages 23 - 70)**

The Monitoring Officer submits a report detailing the Hearing Panel recommendations following the Standards Hearing Sub-Committee meeting held on 21st October 2025. The Committee is recommended to consider the findings and the outcomes of the Hearing Panel, and to endorse the Panel's recommendations, with or without modification.

**8. Complaints Against Councillors - October 2025
Update**

**Appendix D
(Pages 71 - 72)**

The Monitoring Officer submits a report giving feedback on complaints against Councillors reviewed and/or determined since the last meeting and updating the Committee on progress with outstanding complaints against Councillors. The Committee is recommended to receive and note the report.

Members of the Public are to note that the Committee reserves the right to move into private session at any time, if required, should further information be requested or discussed that is in breach of paragraphs 1, 2 and 7c of the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985. Further information can be found under Item 7, Private Session of this agenda.

9. Private Session

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TO NOTE

Under the law, the Committee is entitled to consider certain items in private. Members of the public will be asked to leave the meeting when such items are discussed.

The Committee is recommended to consider the following reports in private on the grounds that they contain 'exempt' information as defined by the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985, as amended and consequently that the Cabinet makes the following resolution:-

“that the press and public be excluded during consideration of the following reports in accordance with the provisions of Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended, because they involve the likely disclosure of 'exempt' information, as defined in the Paragraphs detailed below of Part 1

of Schedule 12A of the Act and taking all the circumstances into account, it is considered that the public interest in maintaining the information as exempt outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

Paragraph 1

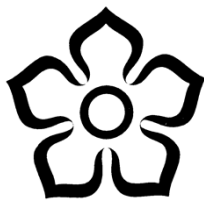
Information relating to any individual.

Paragraph 2

Information which is likely to reveal the identity of an individual.

Paragraph 7c

The deliberations of a standards committee or of a sub-committee of a standards committee established under the provisions of Part 3 of the Local Government Act 2000 in reaching any finding on a matter referred under the provisions of section 60(2) or (3), 64(2), 70(4) or (5) or 71(2) of that Act.



Leicester
City Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the
STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Held: TUESDAY, 25 FEBRUARY 2025 at 5:30 pm

P R E S E N T :

Councillor Dr Barton (Chair)

Councillor Cank

Councillor Whittle

Councillor Joannou

Also present:

Ms Fiona Barber
Mr Mike Galvin
Ms Jayne Kelly
Ms Alison Lockley
Mr Simon Smith
Mr Mick Edwards
Mr David Lindley

Independent Member
Independent Member
Independent Member
Independent Member
Independent Member
Independent Person
Independent Person

Mr Kamal Adatia
Ms Jessica Skidmore

Monitoring Officer
Governance Services

* * * * *

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillor Moore, who had been substituted by Councillor Whittle.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members were asked to declare any interest they may have in the business to be discussed on the agenda.

There were no declarations of interest.

3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Members were asked to confirm that the Minutes of the previous meeting held on 5th December 2023 were a true and accurate record.

Independent Person, David Lindley, noted that he was present for the meeting and requested that the minutes of the meeting be amended to reflect that.

AGREED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 5th December 2023 be confirmed as a true and accurate record, subject to the above amendment.

4. REVISED ARRANGEMENTS FOR DEALING WITH STANDARDS COMPLAINTS AT LEICESTER CITY COUNCIL UNDER THE LOCALISM ACT 2011

The Monitoring Officer submitted a report detailing the revised procedural 'arrangements' for review by the Committee.

The Monitoring Office presented the report, thanking Members for their commitment to the Standards Committee. Attention was drawn to prior discussions surrounding the frequency of meetings at the last meeting, in which biannual meetings were found to be appropriate, with sub-committee's convening as and when appropriate.

It was noted that the mid 2024 meeting scheduled did not take place largely due to the impact of the Council's cyber incident.

The Monitoring Officer drew attention to Appendix B, which detailed lessons learned from received complaints, reflections in collaboration with Independent Person's of the Committee and the resulting suggested changes, which note the following:

- Page 7 – Wording of item 4F had been amended. It was noted that there may be instances in which the code was engaged but not breached and may be disproportionate to take the case further.
- Page 8 – An addition was made to include the possibility of a separate breach of the code of conduct, should the subject Member not comply with the recommended informal recommendation. Further mention was made to incidents involving a public forum, such as social media, and how that resolution should be conducted. This allowed for a degree of discretion for the Monitoring Officer and Independent Person to ensure the best outcome.

Members noted that they were happy with the sensible changes made to the arrangements.

AGREED:

That the report be noted.

5. RESPONDING TO THE GOVERNMENT'S CONSULTATION ON THE FUTURE OF THE STANDARDS REGIME

The Monitoring Officer submitted a report regarding the consultation launched on 18th December 2024 by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, seeking views on proposals to introduce measures to strengthen the standards and conduct regime for local authorities in England.

The Monitoring Officer presented the report, noting the importance for Members to review the proposed changes and provide any questions or comments to be submitted prior to the consultation deadline the next day. It was noted to be the biggest potential change to ethical standards in Government since 2012. The proposed had been worked on in collaboration with the Committee on Standard's in Public Life (CSPL) and the Local Government Association (LGA).

It was noted that the code had changed in 2022, however the City Council did not take on the recommendations and adopt the code, as the Council's own code had been considered more readable and best suited the Council's needs, but would refer to national code guidance if additional detail in complaints was required.

The Monitoring Officer provided some background on the past situation regarding the Standards Regime, noting that officials believed the structure was too cumbersome, with a larger overarching Standard's Board for England involved. It was believed that a swifter local approach was better for local authorities.

The Monitoring Officer summarised the main themes of the report. Members discussed the report in detail and the following points were highlighted:

- Members agreed that local arrangements could be cumbersome, but the overall preference remained for swifter, locally managed processes.
- The Council currently publishes anonymised complaints logs twice yearly, with a biennial detailed report; with serious cases usually heard in public.
- Members emphasised the need to ensure that both complainants and Councillors receive appropriate support throughout the complaints process.
- There was support for introducing suspension powers, alongside consideration of whether a national appeals body would be required.
- It was agreed that only the most serious complaints should proceed to investigation, in order to avoid unnecessary bureaucracy.
- It was noted that Independent Persons (IPs) provide valued input but were not voting members of the Standards Committee. Independent

Members (IMs) were co-opted with full voting rights in sub-committees.

- Members did not consider it appropriate for IPs to Chair the Standards Committee, as the role should remain with elected councillors.
- It was noted that vexatious complaints were rare, but Members agreed that these should be carefully managed and not dismissed too quickly, recognising the accountability of councillors.
- It was confirmed that complaints were published anonymously in logs. Members agreed that naming councillors could encourage vexatious behaviour.
- Members expressed mixed views on investigating former councillors, but there was supportive for continuing investigations in serious or safeguarding cases.
- Concerns about bullying by members was raised, with ensuing discussion on whether whistleblowing systems were sufficient enough to capture such issues.
- It was noted that staff often raised concerns via unions, and Members stressed the importance of ensuring staff feel safe to report misconduct.
- It was noted that the Committee did not collect systematic feedback from complainants.
- Members agreed that lessons should continue to be drawn from individual complaints, even where formal feedback was not provided.
- There was support for suspension powers, provided they were reserved for proven and serious breaches.
- Members agreed that sanctions should rest with the Standards Committee if it was within its jurisdiction.
- Views differed on who should inform constituents if a Councillor is suspended, with some believing it should be the group whip and others suggesting council officers.
- Members debated whether the Government should set a maximum suspension length, with the majority preferring local discretion.
- It was noted that suspensions were rare, and that the council has never had to impose one under the current arrangements.
- Opinions differed on whether Councillors should continue to receive allowances during suspension. Members supported restricting access to certain facilities if misconduct was directly linked to their use.

- Views of Members were mixed on whether allowances or access could be withheld without suspension, with some considering it proportionate and others preferring suspension as the clearer sanction.
- Members raised concerns about interim suspension powers, particularly where police investigations are ongoing, as it may be prejudicial. Members agreed that interim suspensions should include built-in review mechanisms to ensure they remain appropriate and proportionate.
- The Committee debated whether multiple suspensions within a five-year period should be allowed. It was noted that defining “gross misconduct” would be crucial.
- Members expressed openness to disqualification powers in the most serious cases, drawing comparisons with professional standards.
- It was agreed that appeals should not remain within the council but should instead be heard by a neighbouring authority or a national body.
- Members felt that five days was too short for appeals. Instead, a period of 21 calendar days was considered more appropriate.
- The existing system which allows for a second IP to review complaints was considered effective and Members supported retaining review mechanisms while avoiding unnecessary appeals.
- Members agreed that both complainants and Councillors should have the same rights in the process.
- Members did not support the creation of internal appeals panels, noting that the Standards Committee already fulfils this role.
- Concerns were raised about the risk of endless complaint processes.
- Members considered the Local Government Ombudsman to be the proper external route if complainants were dissatisfied.

AGREED:

1. That the report be noted.
2. That the Monitoring Officer compile a response with the questions and concerns raised by Members, to be submitted as a response to the Government Consultation.

6. COMPLAINTS AGAINST COUNCILLORS - UPDATE

The Monitoring Officer submits a report giving feedback on complaints against

Councillors reviewed and/or determined since the last meeting and updating the Committee on progress with outstanding complaints against Councillors.

The Monitoring Officer presented the report, noting that should Members wish to request further detail to the report, then the meeting could enter into private session to consider further.

Members considered the report, and the following points were highlighted:

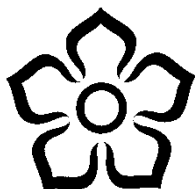
- It was noted that there were 34 contact attempts regarding complaints within the 2023-24 year, however that did not constitute 32 valid complaints.
- It was noted that a separate inbox for the Monitoring Officer dealt solely with complaints and that complaints included in the report were logged sequentially. Should a complaint not receive a response following being addressed by the Monitoring Officer, then the complaint would subsequently receive a follow up.
- In regard to one of the complaints, Members queried the surrounding detail of the complaint. It was noted that the Chair of the meeting had immediately requested that the remark in question be withdrawn. The Monitoring Officer believed that the response was appropriate for this occasion.
- It was noted that bar one complaint that was pending, all other complaints had been addressed and had concluded.
- The Monitoring Office clarified the process in which a complaint is dealt with, nothing that further escalation would see the complaint be brought to the Standard's Advisory Board.

AGREED:

That the report be noted.

7. ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

There being no other urgent business, the meeting closed at 7:51pm.



Leicester
City Council

WARDS AFFECTED
All

FORWARD TIMETABLE OF CONSULTATION AND MEETINGS:

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

29th October 2025

FULL COUNCIL

TBA

BIENNIAL REPORT OF STANDARDS COMMITTEE JULY 2023 - JUNE 2025
ANALYSIS OF MEMBER COMPLAINTS

Report of the Monitoring Officer

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1. This is the report of the Monitoring Officer dealing with Elected Member complaints for the period 1st July 2023 to 30th June 2025. It provides a general overview of complaints for those years, broken down into two periods. Individual complaints themselves are treated confidentially, in accordance with the rules of natural justice. Publicity will attach to cases where they reach the stage of a (public) hearing, or when otherwise appropriate, for example if the misconduct occurred in a very public forum.
- 1.2. Appendix A provides a redacted summary of valid complaints.
- 1.3. Council have separately approved and revised two key documents (the “Code” and the “Arrangements”) which, respectively, set out the expected standards of behaviour of Elected Members and the procedural framework under which misconduct allegations are processed. The Code was last revised in 2022, and the Committee made some suggested amendments to the Arrangements in early 2025 which will be presented separately to the Council for endorsement at this meeting.
- 1.4. The Council has 55 Elected Members (54 Councillors and a directly elected Mayor)

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1. For Standards Committee to note the report and make any recommendations
- 2.2. For Council to note the report

3. REPORT

Principles

- 3.1.1. The principles which underpin the Council's processes for dealing with Member misconduct complaint remain as follows:
 - a. **There should be simplicity to the scheme so that it is easily understood and transparent**
 - b. **There should be flexibility at every stage of the process for informal resolution and / or robust decisions to be taken about "no further action"**
 - c. **There should be Member involvement at key stages in the process**
 - d. **There should be the involvement of Independent Members (IM) and the Independent Person (IP) at key stages of the process**
 - e. **The Monitoring Officer should have greater powers to deal with complaints relating to the Code of Conduct**
 - f. **All Members and co-opted Members shall cooperate with the application of these Arrangements, recognising that failure to do so can result in the incurring of wasted costs and reputational damage to the Council**

- g. Rights for complainants to seek a “review” of a decisions at various stages should be limited, consistent with the reduced scope and severity of allowable outcomes that can be imposed under the new regime**
- h. At any stage in the process where it is clear that a matter should be referred to the police this should be done and the local investigation should be suspended**

3.2. **Volume**

No. of valid complaints lodged 1st July 2023 to 30th June 2024	7
No. of valid complaints lodged 1st July 2023 to 30th June 2025	6

2023/24

- 3.3. In the period July 2023 to June 2024 seven valid complaints were lodged, covering nine Elected Members. One Member was complained about twice, about a similar theme (unresponsiveness to constituents).
- 3.4. This means that 46 out of 55 Elected Members did not attract an allegation of misconduct that year.

2024/25

- 3.5. In the period July 2024 to June 2025 six valid complaints were lodged, covering five Elected Members. One Councillor was complained about twice, arising from the same event.
- 3.6. This means that 50 out of 55 Elected Members did not attract an allegation of misconduct that year.
- 3.7. It is to be noted that the number of complaints processed each year is a subset of a larger number of contacts made to the Monitoring Officer. Reasons for ‘contacts’ not progressing to ‘complaints’ include:

- Complaint too vague or general to constitute a valid complaint, and when invited by the Monitoring Officer to clarify the nature of the allegation, the prospective complainant declined to engage
- Complaint was about conduct that predated the May 2023 Elections, before which the time the person complained about was not an Elected Member
- Complaint more properly resolved through other action instigated by the Monitoring Officer (e.g. complaint wasn't about standards, and complaint really only wanted progression/resolution of an operational matter)
- Complaint already properly dealt with through other channels
- Elected Member clearly not acting on the business of the Authority at the time (for example, acting on party political business or community work unrelated to their Council role)

3.8. In all cases where a prospective complaint is not treated as valid the Monitoring Officer is mindful to assess whether it is just and fair to abandon it, taking an appropriate steer from the Independent Person(s) where appropriate.

3.9. In relation to some of the invalid complaints the Monitoring Officer nonetheless can and does utilize his broader jurisdiction to offer advice to Elected Members.

3.10. Source of Complaints

2023/24

Public	3
Member	4
Staff	0

2024/25

Public	3
Member	2

Staff	1
--------------	----------

3.11. Nature of allegations

2023/24

Disrespectful behaviour	3
Unhelpfulness	4
Misleading	1

2024/25

Disrespectful behaviour	5
Bias	1
Breach of confidentiality	1

3.12. It is very difficult to draw any inferences from the categories used above due to the small sample size. The anonymized Appendix gives more insight into the nature of the allegations raised in the context of the complaints

3.13. Route

2023/24

Dealt with by I.P. and M.O.	6
Concluded after 'Review' by M.O. and second I.P	1
Proceeded to Standards Hearing	0

2024/25

Dealt with by I.P. and M.O.	3
Dealt with after 'Review' by M.O. and second I.P	2
Proceeded to Standards Hearing	1

3.14. Almost all complaints are dealt with by the Monitoring Officer in conjunction with one of the two Independent Persons. These complaints do not come to the attention of the Standards Committee or the Standards Advisory Board (a sub-committee of the Standards Committee which looks at specific complaints) save by way of anonymized update at each Standards Committee meeting.

3.15. A complaint is entitled to ask for a review of a first-stage outcome. The Council's published "Arrangements" allow for this right to be exercised in respect of all outcomes short of referral for independent investigation. A review is achieved by the Monitoring Officer sending the complaint to the second Independent Person, essentially for a second opinion as to outcome.

3.16. Outcome of allegations

2023/24

Rejected (not related to Code, or covered by another process)	0
Rejected (trivial, no public interest in pursuing, vexatious)	0
Rejected (no potential breach of Code disclosed)	3
Informal resolution (no breach, reparation desirable)	1
Informal resolution (low level breach, unnecessary to take further, reparation agreed)	3
Standards subcommittee hearing (outcome of 'no breach')	0

Standards hearing (outcome of ‘breach’)	0
--	----------

2024/25

Rejected (not related to Code, or covered by another process)	0
Rejected (trivial, no public interest in pursuing, vexatious)	0
Rejected (no potential breach of Code disclosed)	5
Informal resolution (no breach, reparation desirable)	0
Informal resolution (low level breach, unnecessary to take further, reparation agreed)	0
Standards hearing (outcome of ‘no breach’)	0
Standards hearing (outcome of ‘breach’)	1

3.17. Timeliness

The ‘Arrangements’ set the following timeframes:

Complaint received ► Acknowledged to Complainant (within 5 days) ► Acknowledged to Subject Member (within 5 further days) ► Initial filtering decision by M.O. and I.P (within 15 days) ► [Further Fact Finding] ► Outcome letter ► Review (within 15 days of request)

In cases referred for investigation ► Investigation (within 3 months of initial outcome letter) ► Hearing (within 3 months)

- 3.18. The figures for the number of days taken to deal with a complaint are included within Appendix A. A relevant variable is for cases where an initial filtering decision results in the Monitoring Officer undertaking some more fact finding before an outcome is recommended. This could either entail asking for more details from the complainant, or involve meeting with the Subject Member to discuss the allegations. These are not always achievable within the ten day window envisaged, though the Monitoring Officer is conscious that “drift” in speedily resolving complaints is of itself harmful.
- 3.19. The Monitoring Officer is confident that in all cases complainants and Subject Members are communicated with in such a way that they are not left in doubt as to what stage of the process has been reached in dealing with their complaint, and when outcomes will be reached. Where target timescales are likely to be exceeded, it is important to explain this to the parties involved in a complaint, and in those circumstances (where the delay is purposeful) it is more important to maintain contact and dedicate what time is needed to the resolution of the complaint than to comply with rigid timeframes. The ‘Arrangements’ grant a degree of flexibility to the Monitoring Officer to achieve this aim.
- 3.20. A couple of cases did take longer to resolve than is desirable. This delay was attributable to a combination of summer holidays affecting availability and also the Monitoring Officer’s Deputy taking conduct of cases and familiarising themselves with the procedures.

3.21. **Cost**

No detailed analysis of the cost of operating the complaints regime has been undertaken, and neither would it be easy to do so. The vast majority of cases are dealt with without recourse to the Standards Advisory Board or a commissioning of any specialist investigations. The work is therefore absorbed within the day-to-day work of the Monitoring Officer in conjunction with one of the two Independent Persons. Most of this work in turn is conducted over e-mail.

4. FINANCIAL, LEGAL AND OTHER IMPLICATIONS

4.1. Financial Implications

None

4.2. Legal Implications

The Council's regime for dealing with allegations of Elected Member misconduct allegations complies with the provisions of the Localism Act 2011. (Kamal Adatia, City Barrister).

4.3. Climate Change Implications

None

5. BACKGROUND PAPERS – LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

6. REPORT AUTHOR

6.1. Kamal Adatia, City Barrister and Head of Standards.

Appendix A

Ref	Subject Member	Complainant	Nature of Complaint	Route	Outcome	Days	Reparation/ Lessons
July 2023 – June 2024							
14/2023	Cllr 1	Cllr	Cllr conduct towards another Cllr during a meeting of Full Council	MO/IP	Informal resolution – Code engaged and a gesture of reparation was recommended.	66	Cllr 2 to made a written apology
19/2023	Cllr 2	Member of public	False information given at Full Council by Cllr during debate	MO/IP + Review	No breach of the Code of Conduct. A disagreement about the veracity of facts asserted by a Cllr in good faith in response to a formal Question put at Council cannot found a breach of the Code	28	
28/2023	Cllr 3	Cllr	Appropriateness of language used in Tweet on social media	MO/IP	Informal resolution – Code engaged and a gesture of reparation was recommended	2	Amended Tweet, as recommended, was sent though Cllr should have taken up the opportunity to do so when informally approached before complaint was lodged.

Reference	Subject Member	Complainant	Nature of Complaint	Route	Outcome	Days	Reparation/ Lessons
30/2023	Cllr 4	Cllr	Disrespectful remark made to opposition Cllr during sensitive debate at Full Council	MO/IP	Informal resolution. Code engaged and written apology forthcoming from subject Cllr	40	Chair of meeting did seek immediate retraction which would have resolved the matter earlier, if taken up.
34/2023	Cllrs 5 & 6	Cllr	Derogatory remarks about Cllr overheard by that Cllr on exiting Town Hall after Council meeting	MO/IP	Complaint rejected because Cllrs 2 and 3 were not acting in their capacity as Cllrs when exchanging those derogatory remarks.	36	(Note this arises from the same debate that was under discussion in complaint 30/2023) Advice given by MO that Cllrs must exercise care when talking as private /political colleagues if they are in a public space
05/2024	Cllrs 7, 8, 9	Member of public	Failure of Ward members to address request for support	MO/IP	No breach disclosed. One Cllr became ill during the relevant period. Co-Cllrs had assumed the first Cllr was dealing with it. Council cyber-attack compounded issues when first Cllr's illness precluded them from getting network access restored.	30	MO wrote to Whip to instil better discipline about autoreplies on e-mails and alternative contact mechanisms when a Cllr is out of action. Co-Cllr took-up the case.

Reference	Subject Member	Complainant	Nature of Complaint	Route	Outcome	Days	Reparation/ Lessons
07/2024	Cllr 10	Member of public	Ward Cllr completely unresponsive to e-mails	MO/IP	No breach, but apology owed and provided for failure to communicate. The substantive issue was a Planning matter, and the complainant's objections (albeit not responded to by the Cllr) were received and taken on board by the Planning officer before a decision was made.	20	MO wrote to the Cllr and the Group Leader to set some expectations for "customer care" when a Cllr is experiencing I.T. issues, or is otherwise temporarily unavailable
July 2024 – June 2025							
14/2024	Cllr 11	Cllr	Cllr felt intimidated by Co-Cllr threatening to "report" them for misconduct at a Ward meeting	MO/IP	No Breach of Code of Conduct. Language used by subject Member was not a personal attack but a factual comment. Context was relevant – Subject Member had been provoked by behaviour of Cllr making complaint	12	

Reference	Subject Member	Complainant	Nature of Complaint	Route	Outcome	Days	Reparation/ Lessons
15/2024	Cllr 12	Staff	Behaviour of Cllr at a briefing meeting was disrespectful to officers, and post-briefing conduct breached confidentiality	Investigation	Hearing took place 21.10.2025. Will be reported to Standards Committee	10 months	

Reference	Subject Member	Complainant	Nature of Complaint	Route	Outcome	Days	Reparation/ Lessons
01/2025	Cllr 13	Cllr	Disrespectful behaviour by Cllr towards another Cllr at outset of Committee meeting	MO/IP	No breach of Code of Conduct. The exchange was forthright but the language used did not amount to a personal attack.	21	Conduct which is conducted within earshot of officers and on Council premises is capable of being covered under the Code even where the subject being discussed is “political” in nature
05/2025	Cllr 14	Member of public	Chair of decision-making Committee biased and predetermined	MO/IP + Review	No breach of Code of Conduct. Allegations by complainant were unevidenced and spurious. Chair acted perfectly properly.	22 + 10	Cllrs should be reminded to update their Rol (Register of Interests) promptly, and this applies equally to removing items as it does to adding them

Reference	Subject Member	Complainant	Nature of Complaint	Route	Outcome	Days	Reparation/ Lessons
07/2025	Cllr 15	Member of public <i>Complainant was from a wider organisation but still an individual</i>	Disrespectful commentary by Ward Cllr during public consultation	MO/IP	No breach of Code of Conduct. Comments were not a personal attack on anyone, but critique of perceived misinformation about the proposals	60	
08/2025	Cllr 16	Member of public	Disrespectful commentary by Ward Cllr during public consultation	MO/IP + Review	No breach of Code of Conduct. Comments were not a personal attack on anyone, but critique of perceived misinformation about the proposals	58	Case involved WhatsApp messaging on community groups – which is a growing phenomenon

Appendix D

By virtue of paragraph(s) 1, 2, 7 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A
of the Local Government Act 1972.

Document is Restricted

By virtue of paragraph(s) 1, 2, 7 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A
of the Local Government Act 1972.

Document is Restricted

By virtue of paragraph(s) 1, 2, 7 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A
of the Local Government Act 1972.

Document is Restricted

COMPLAINTS UPDATE – October 2025

Reference	Subject Member	Complainant	Nature of Complaint	Route	Outcome	Turnaround (working days)	Reparation/ Lessons
01/2025	CLlr 1	CLlr 2	Disrespectful behaviour by CLlr towards another CLlr at outset of Committee meeting	MO/IP	No breach of Code of Conduct. The exchange was forthright but the language used did not amount to a personal attack.	21	Conduct which is conducted within earshot of officers and on Council premises is capable of being covered under the Code even where the subject being discussed is “political” in nature.
05/2025	CLlr 3	Member of public	Chair of decision-making Committee biased and predetermined	MO/IP + Review	No breach of Code of Conduct. Allegations by complainant were unevidenced and spurious. Chair acted perfectly properly.	22 + 10	CLlrs should be reminded to update their RoI (Register of Interests) promptly, and this applies equally to removing items as it does to adding them
07/2025	CLlr 4	Member of public <i>Complainant was from a wider organisation but still an individual</i>	Disrespectful commentary by Ward CLlr during public consultation	MO/IP	No breach of Code of Conduct. Comments were not a personal attack on anyone, but critique of perceived misinformation about the proposals	60	

Reference	Subject Member	Complainant	Nature of Complaint	Route	Outcome	Turnaround (working days)	Reparation/ Lessons
08/2025	CLlr 5	Member of public	Disrespectful commentary by Ward CLlr during public consultation	MO/IP + Review	No breach of Code of Conduct. Comments were not a personal attack on anyone, but critique of misinformation about the proposals	58	Case involved WhatsApp messaging on community groups – which is a growing phenomenon
10/2025	CLlr 6	CLlr 7	Disrespectful outburst by CLlr at close of Council meeting	MO/IP	Code engaged. Informal resolution recommended and agreed	2	Full and clear apology and retraction willingly made by CLlr at beginning of next Council meeting

- Two other complaints received during the summer of 2025 were not progressed because the complainants (users of community facilities) wanted to raise a complaint about their Ward Councillor anonymously on the grounds that they feared retaliation. The procedures do allow for it as follows *“If the complainant wishes to keep their name and address confidential this should be discussed with the Monitoring Officer. The authority does not normally investigate anonymous complaints, unless there is a clear public interest in doing so”*. IP and MO agreed that in this instance there was no particular wider public interest at stake and (ii) it would in any event have been impossible to preserve confidentiality given the nature of the purported complaint.