

Title of Report	STANDARDS AND ETHICS REPORT - QUARTER 4	
Presented by	Rochelle Tapping Head of Legal and Support Services and Monitoring Officer	
Background Papers	None	Public Report: Yes
Financial Implications	There are no financial implications to be considered.	
	Signed off by the Acting Section 151 Officer: yes	
Legal Implications	The report details the Council's compliance with legislative requirements including Freedom of Information Requests, Environmental Information Requests and use of RIPA powers from the previous quarter.	
	Signed off by the Monitoring Officer: yes	
Staffing and Corporate Implications	There are no staffing and corporate implications to be considered.	
	Signed off by the Head of Paid Service: yes	
Purpose of Report	To receive and consider the figures for the Local Determination of Complaints and Ethical Indicators for Quarter 4 of 2025/26.	
Recommendations	THAT THE COMMITTEE NOTES THE REPORT.	

1.0 BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The Audit and Governance Committee assists the Council in fulfilling its duty under the Localism Act 2011 to promote and maintain high standards of conduct by Councillors and co-opted Councillors of District and Parish Councils.
- 1.2 This is a quarterly report to the Committee. The Standards and Ethics Report appended provides information in two categories: Local Determination of Complaints and Ethical Indicators. Each category is split for ease of reference. The report for Quarter Four of 2025/26 is attached at Appendix 1.
- 1.3 This report will enable the Audit and Governance Committee to keep track of how many complaints are received by the Monitoring Officer each quarter and how these

are dealt with. Where the Councillor Code of Conduct has been breached, this will also be recorded to enable the Committee to determine whether there needs to be further targeted training.

- 1.4 The report also allows the Committee to have oversight on the quarterly data for Ethical Indicators. This includes reporting on instances of concern raised regarding Modern Slavery, reporting of whistleblowing incidents, whether the Council has used its RIPA powers, and several other indicators.

Policies and other considerations, as appropriate	
Council Priorities:	A Well-Run Council
Policy Considerations:	N/A
Safeguarding:	Customers and the community are safeguarded in relation to modern slavery by having the ability to raise instances of concern, which must be looked into and referred to the national agencies where appropriate.
Equalities/Diversity:	N/A
Customer Impact:	None arising directly from the report. Details regarding the process for making an FOI request or making a complaint about a councillor are on the Council's website.
Economic and Social Impact:	N/A
Environment, Climate Change and Zero Carbon	N/A
Consultation/Community/Tenant Engagement:	N/A
Risks:	Receiving regular reports on the statistics of Ethical Indicators and councillor complaints enables the Committee to exercise oversight of their function under the Localism Act 2011 and manage risks.
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