

NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

**AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE – WEDNESDAY, 5
AUGUST 2026**



Title of Report		STANDARDS AND ETHICS QUARTERLY REPORT (Q1)	
Presented by		Emma Lant Legal Team Leader - Governance	
Background Papers		None	Public Report: Yes
Financial Implications		There are no financial implications to be considered.	
		Signed off by the Section 151 Officer: yes	
Legal Implications		The report details the Council's compliance with ethical indicators. It also provides an update to the Audit and Governance Committee on standards complaints for which the Committee has overall responsibility for.	
		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 1 of 2026/27.	
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. This report appended provides information in two categories: Local Determination of Complaints; and Ethical Indicators. Each category is split for ease of reference.
- 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.

2.0 STANDARDS COMPLAINTS - MAIN CONSIDERATIONS

- 2.1 This part of the report details the figures for complaints made against elected members under the code of conduct (standards complaints). These figures are presented on a quarterly basis.

Current Complaints

- 2.2 The Council received one new complaint in Q1 of 2026/2027. This complaint was from a member of the public regarding a parish councillor and is currently ongoing.
- 2.3 There are also some complaints ongoing from previous quarters:
 - 2.3.1 One complaint received in Quarter 1 of 2025/26 is still ongoing.
 - 2.3.2 One complaint received in Quarter 2 of 2025/26 is still ongoing.
 - 2.3.3 One complaint received in Quarter 3 of 2025/26 is still ongoing.
 - 2.3.4 Four complaints received in Quarter 4 of 2025/26 are still ongoing

Complaints Determined

- 2.4 No complaints were resolved informally in Q1.
- 2.5 There have been two Assessment Sub-committee meetings in Q1. One Assessment Sub-committee related to a complaint received in Quarter 1 of 2025/26. The Sub-committee resolved to take other action in relation to this matter. The other Assessment Sub-committee related to a complaint received in Quarter 3 of 2025/26. The Sub-committee decided to take no further action in relation to this complaint.
- 2.6 The Interim Monitoring Officer also determined (under delegated authority to depart from the usual procedure of the arrangements) that a complaint received in Quarter 3 of 2024/25 would not proceed, given the investigation findings.

3.0 ETHICAL INDICATORS

The table below shows the ethical indicators for Q1 in comparison to other quarters for the last three years. Members will note that there have been no matters reported for Q1:

PERFORMANCE INDICATOR	Q1			Q2			Q3			Q4		
	24/25	25/26	26/27	23/24	24/25	25/26	23/24	24/25	25/26	23/24	24/25	25/26
Instances of concerns raised re Modern Slavery	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Instances of concerns raised re Modern Slavery referred to national agencies	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Number of whistle blowing incidents reported	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Number of Challenges to procurements	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Public interest Reports	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Objections to the Council's Accounts	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Disciplinary action relating to breaches of the Member/Officer Protocol	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Follow up action relating to breaches of the Member/Officer Protocol	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Use of RIPA powers	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

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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