

Standards and Ethics

Quarter 1 Report

2026-2027



Introduction

This is the quarterly report to the Audit and Governance Committee detailing both the figures for the Ethical Indicators and the figures for the Local Determination of Complaints process for 2026/27.

For clarification purposes the months covered by the quarters are as follows:

Quarter 1 - 1 April to 30 June

Quarter 2 - 1 July to 30 September

Quarter 3 - 1 October to 31 December

Quarter 4 - 1 January to 31 March

The report covers local determination of complaints and ethical indicators.

The quarterly reports will enable the Audit and Governance Committee to build up a picture over time of how many complaints are received and any trends where similar incidents are occurring. The parts of the Code of Conduct which have been breached will also be recorded, to enable training to be targeted effectively.

Local Determination of Complaints

The Monitoring Officer received one complaint in Quarter 1 of 2026/27 (1 April to 30 June 2026).

One complaint received in Quarter 1 of 2025/26 is still ongoing.

One complaint received in Quarter 2 of 2025/26 is still ongoing.

One complaint received in Quarter 3 of 2025/26 is still ongoing.

Four complaints received in Quarter 4 of 2025/26 are still ongoing.

The Monitoring Officer determined that a complaint received in Quarter 3 of 2024/25 would not proceed, given the investigation findings. A departure from the Council's arrangements was considered necessary in this case and the Monitoring Officer exercised her delegation to conclude this complaint.

2.1 Assessment Sub-committee Decisions

The Monitoring Officer pursues an informal dispute resolution process prior to initiating formal proceedings via the Sub-committee route. No complaints have been resolved informally in Quarter 1. There have been two Assessment Sub-committee meetings in this quarter. 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. One 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.

2.2 Determination Sub-Committee Decisions

None to report - see above.

Complaints made to the Monitoring Officer under the Code of Conduct during Q1 2026/27

Qtr 1 26/27	Complaint from	About District/ Parish councillor	Regarding	Status
	Member of the Public Parish Cllr		Inappropriate behaviour relating to a planning application, breaching Data Protection and Freedom of Information regulations and failing to declare relevant interests	Ongoing

This table helps to show where there are patterns forming as to behaviour complained about, to enable the Audit and Governance Committee to determine where there needs to be further training for councillors. Some matters may not have been found to be a breach of the Code, but it is still important to know what issues are being raised so that future complaints can be prevented. So far this year, the following areas of the Code have been complained about:

1. Respect
2. Bullying, harassment and discrimination
3. Impartiality of officers of the Council
4. Confidentiality and Access to Information
5. Disrepute
6. Use of position

Nolan Principles

Selflessness, integrity, objectivity, accountability, openness, honesty, leadership

Ethical Indicators

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