



Chelmsford City Council Governance Committee

11 June 2025

Monitoring Officer's Report

Report by:
Monitoring Officer

Officer Contact:
Lorraine Browne, Legal & Democratic Services Manager & Monitoring Officer,
email: lorraine.browne@chelmsford.gov.uk, tel: 01245 606560

Purpose

To update members on the current position in relation to standards complaints and the various registers of interests.

Recommendations

1. To note the current statistical information and agree that Appendix 1 should be published on the Council's website to confirm this.

1. Standards Complaints

- 1.1. The Appendix to this report sets out the latest statistical data related to standards complaints.

1.2. Members will see that there have been 7 further complaints since the last report in January 2025 which have been concluded. The 4 linked complaints from 2024 have also been concluded since the last report.

1.3. The online officer register of interest's forms has now been rolled out across both category 1 and category 2 officers as per the Employee Code of Conduct. These will be subject to annual reminders in the same way as city councillors. The two new city councillors who were elected in May have provided their register of interests as required. There is already an annual assurance process for parish tier councillors and a reminder to clerks to ask parish tier councillors to check whether they need to update their existing forms will be included. The independent persons (for Audit and Risk and Governance Committee) will also be included in the annual reminder process to help ensure all entries remain up to date.

List of Appendices

Appendix 1 – Statistical information regarding complaints made

Background papers: Nil

Corporate Implications

Legal/Constitutional: It is good practice for statistical information to be provided to the Governance Committee. Where any complaints are referred to in the appendix, a summary of the complaint without any personal data is provided.

Financial: None

Potential impact on climate change and the environment: None

Contribution toward achieving a net zero carbon position by 2030: None

Personnel: None

Risk Management: None

Equality and Diversity: None

Health and Safety: None

Digital: None

Other: None

Consultees: None

Relevant Policies and Strategies:
Complaints Procedure

Standards Enquiries and Investigations Statistics – Localism Act 2011

January 2025 – June 2025

Status of Complaint Categories	Total No.	Case No.	City, Parish tier Councillor	Date Issue First Raised	Alleged Breach or Issue Raised	Current Position
1. No formal complaint, invalid or withdrawn						
2. No further action required after consultation with one of the Independent Persons	11	23-26/24	Parish/City tier	Sept 24	Various including disrespect, bullying & discrimination	Police investigation completed and resulted in NFA. Standards complaints reviewed once police matter complete. NFA – issues around official capacity and below threshold for action.
		1, 3, 4 & 5/25	Parish	March 25	Alleged disrespect arising during meeting	NFA below threshold for action. Should have been dealt with as meetings management
		2/25	Parish	March 25	Various allegations including disrespect, bullying,	NFA councillor implementing council decisions and issues raised more

Status of Complaint Categories	Total No.	Case No.	City, Parish tier Councillor	Date Issue First Raised	Alleged Breach or Issue Raised	Current Position
		6 & 7/25	Parish	March 25	Alleged disrepute arising during meeting	appropriate to be dealt with under other legal processes. Related to parish council decision. On facts raised concluded no breach of the code of conduct.
3. Other action after consultation with one of the independent Persons	0					
4. Complaint on hold						.
5. Decision as to appropriate action still awaited						
6. Complaints being investigated	0					

Status of Complaint Categories	Total No.	Case No.	City, Parish tier Councillor	Date Issue First Raised	Alleged Breach or Issue Raised	Current Position
Total	11					

Formal Complaint Outcomes

	Case No. and Councillor	Committee Date and Decision	Date Issue First Raised	Current Position
Outcome of Investigations				
Other Action				