

MINUTES OF THE GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

24 June 2026 at 7.15pm

Present:

Councillor S. Rajesh (Chair)

Councillors H. Ayres, G. Bonnett, K. Franks I. Fuller, S. Shah and S. Young

Also in attendance –

Parish Councillor P. Jackson

Independent Persons –

Ms P. Mills

Mr P. Jeremiah

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Parish Councillor K Bentley.

2. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 11 March 2026 were confirmed as a correct record.

3. Declarations of Interest

All Members were reminded to declare any disclosable pecuniary interests or other registerable interests where appropriate in any items of business on the meeting's agenda, none were made.

4. Public Question Time

No questions or statements were received from members of the public.

5. Chair's Announcements

No Announcements were received.

6. Monitoring Officer Report

The Monitoring Officer presented an update on the current position regarding standards complaints, alongside several wider governance updates. Members were advised that three new complaints had been received since the last report in March 2026. The Committee were informed of a complaint that had been received since

publishing the agenda, which was to be acknowledged shortly. Members were informed that there were two outstanding actions from the Cllr P Clark complaint, but that they were due to undertake training on 30th June and the censure report was due to be heard at July Full Council.

The Committee heard that all City and Parish register of interest forms were up to date and that existing practice to not publish Councillor's home addresses, was set to be formalised in updated legislation.

RESOLVED that the update be noted and that the standards enquiries and investigations statistics for the period of March 2026 – June 2026 be published online.

(7.16pm to 7.20pm)

7. Annual Review of Constitution

The Committee received a report detailing some proposed minor updates to the Constitution, following the annual review. The Committee were informed that the Constitution Working Group had been consulted via email, along with the Mayoral Working Group for the proposed Mayoralty rule changes and both groups had supported them. The Committee heard that changes had been proposed to the employee Code of Conduct, due to changes in the way officer interests were now declared and that changes had been proposed to the Mayoralty rules to reflect changes in day to day practice. The Committee were informed that if they supported the changes, they would go to Cabinet and Full Council in July for approval.

RESOLVED that the proposed Constitution changes as set out in Appendix 1 and 2, be recommended to Cabinet and Full Council for approval.

(7.21pm to 7.23pm)

8. Local Government Ombudsman Complaint Handling Code & Annual Letter

The Committee received a report updating them on the Council's position relating to the adoption of the LGSCO complaint handling code and the latest statistical data from the LGSCO. The report set out the Council's updated position via a self assessment assurance document and it was noted that the new annual report should be considered by the Cabinet in September 2026. The report also detailed the statistical performance in relation to complaints involving the Ombudsman.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

(7.24pm to 7.27pm)

9. Annual Report of the Governance Committee 2025/26

The Committee received the annual report of the Governance Committee, outlining the work of the Committee for the last municipal year.

RESOLVED that the annual report be recommended to Full Council in July 2026 for approval.

(7.28pm to 7.30pm)

10. Work Programme

The Committee received an update on the work programme for 2026/27.

RESOLVED that the work programme of the Committee be noted.

(7.31pm to 7.33pm)

11. Urgent Business

There were no matters of urgent business.

The meeting closed at 7.33pm

Chair