



Chelmsford City Council Governance Committee

15 October 2025

Monitoring Officer's Report

Report by:
Monitoring Officer

Officer Contact:
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Purpose

To update members on the current position in relation to standards complaints.

Recommendations

1. To note the current statistical information and agree that Appendix 1 should be published on the Council's website to confirm this.
 2. To note the update concerning the Chelmsford Association of Local Councils.
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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 5 further complaints since the last report in June 2025. The details of the current position in relation to the complaints are set out in the attached appendix. 1 complaint has been completed, 3 are awaiting responses from relevant parties and 1 is subject to investigation.

1.3. It is understood that the Chelmsford Association of Local Councils is now back in action and will be holding their first meeting on 15th October. In other areas, it is often the case that the local association appoints any parish representatives to governance/standards committee and may meet with the Monitoring Officer periodically in support of ethical governance arrangements. A further update as to the role of the Association will be provided as necessary.

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

June 2025 – October 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 No formal complaint, invalid or withdrawn	1	9/25	City	June 25	Alleged bullying/harassment	Unlikely to be official capacity – clarification sought from complainant. No response. Matter closed.
2. No further action required after consultation with one of the Independent Persons						
3. Other action after consultation with one of the independent Persons	2	10-11/25	parish	July 25	Alleged disrespect (social media) and failure to update register of interests	Matters of complaint (except failure to update register of interest) below threshold for action to be taken. Councillor final reminder to update their register of interest. Response awaited.

Status of Complaint Categories	Total No.	Case No.	City, Parish tier Councillor	Date Issue First Raised	Alleged Breach or Issue Raised	Current Position
4. Complaint on hold						
5. Decision as to appropriate action still awaited	1	12/25	Parish	Sept 2025	Alleged disrespect, breach of confidentiality, disrepute	Clarification as to capacity sought from complainant. Response awaited.
6. Complaints being investigated	1	8/25	City	June 2025	Alleged disrespect and improper use of position	Met threshold for investigation. Investigator instructed and investigation underway.
Total	5					

Formal Complaint Outcomes

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