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# Chelmsford City Council Governance Committee

**24 June 2026**

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## Monitoring Officer's Report

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Report by:  
Monitoring Officer

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Officer Contact:  
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### Purpose

To update members on the current position in relation to standards complaints and in relation to other relevant areas, including any outstanding register of interests forms for members and a change in legislation relating to publication of councillor home addresses.

### 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 various updates set out in this report.
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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 2 new complaints since the last report in March 2026. The details of the current position in relation to the complaints are set out in the attached appendix. This includes an update following the hearing in March 2026 where Cllr Paul Clark was found to have breached the code of conduct. There are two outstanding actions yet to be completed. Firstly, in relation to the sanction laid down by the committee for the councillor to undertake training. Officers have been in contact with the councillor to arrange the training and the committee will be updated as to the position. The censure report will be made to July Council. All other complaints have been completed as set out in the appendix.

## 2. Other updates

- 2.1 As a result of the recent city by election, a new city councillor has recently completed their register of interests form as required. The councillor has also received code of conduct training as part of their induction. In terms of parish council update, the Monitoring Officer can also report that any outstanding register of interest form(s) have now been received.
- 2.2 As a result of a change in legislation, as from the 29 June 2026, the rules concerning the publication of an elected or co-opted member's home address in a register of interests will change.
- 2.3 The new section 32A of the Localism Act 2011 makes clear that a member's home address should not be disclosed on the authority's public register of interest unless the member has requested otherwise. This formalises existing practice but in future the public registers of interest will reference that information is withheld under the new section 32A (as opposed to Section 32 which is more limited in scope). The exact address details will continue to be declared to the monitoring officer and remain available internally to authorities to prevent conflicts of interest.

## 3. List of Appendices

Appendix 1 – Statistical information regarding complaints made

Background papers: none

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## Corporate Implications

Legal/Constitutional: It is good practice for statistical information (and other updates) to be provided to Governance Committee. Where any complaints are referred to in the appendix, a summary of the complaint without any personal data is provided. The other updates are provided so that committee members are aware of recent developments.

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

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Consultees: None

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Relevant Policies and Strategies:  
Complaints Procedure

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**Standards Enquiries and Investigations Statistics – Localism Act 2011**

**March 2026 – June 2026**

<b>Status of Complaint Categories</b>	<b>Total No.</b>	<b>Case No.</b>	<b>City, Parish tier Councillor</b>	<b>Date Issue First Raised</b>	<b>Alleged Breach or Issue Raised</b>	<b>Current Position</b>
<b>1. No formal complaint, invalid or withdrawn</b>						
<b>2. No further action required after consultation with one of the Independent Persons</b>		2/26	Parish	Mar 26	Various allegations but in relation to request for MO intervention in parish matters	Invalid complaint – MO does not have jurisdiction to intervene in parish matters. NFA. Closed
		3/26	Parish	Apr 26	Various allegations in relation 5 alleged incidents	Most allegations did not give rise to a breach of the code of conduct, dated back to a few years ago and/or were below threshold in any event. NFA. Closed
<b>3. Other action after consultation</b>						

<b>Status of Complaint Categories</b>	<b>Total No.</b>	<b>Case No.</b>	<b>City, Parish tier Councillor</b>	<b>Date Issue First Raised</b>	<b>Alleged Breach or Issue Raised</b>	<b>Current Position</b>
<b>with one of the independent Persons</b>						
<b>4. Complaint on hold</b>						
<b>5. Decision as to appropriate action still awaited</b>						
<b>6. Complaints being investigated</b>						
<b>Total</b>						

### Formal Complaint Outcomes

	<b>Case No. and Councillor</b>	<b>Committee Date and Decision</b>	<b>Date Issue First Raised</b>	<b>Current Position</b>
<b>Outcome of Investigations</b>	8/25 – Cllr Paul Clark	11/3/26 Governance Committee	June 2025	Decision made by Committee that there was a breach of the code of conduct. Councillor

	Case No. and Councillor	Committee Date and Decision	Date Issue First Raised	Current Position
				notified of outcome which has also been published on website  Liaising with Councillor in relation to training  Censure report planned for Full Council July
<b>Other Action</b>				