

9. **Standards Bulletin** (Pages 43 - 56)
10. **Standards Training Plan** (Pages 57 - 60)
11. **Work Programme** (Pages 61 - 68)
12. **Additional Meeting for 2025/2026 Community Governance Reviews**
To agree a date for an additional Standards and Governance Meeting in early February 2026 to review the stage 1 results and proposals for the stage 2 consultation on the 2025/2026 Community Governance Reviews.
13. **Date of the Next Meeting**
The next Scheduled meeting of the Committee is 13 March 2026.

Members of the public are entitled to attend this meeting as observers for all those items taken in open session. You may be interested in [subscribing to updates](#) about this or any other North Yorkshire Council committee.

Recording is allowed at Council, committee and sub-committee meetings which are open to the public. Please give due regard to the Council's protocol on audio/visual recording and photography at public meetings. We ask that any recording is clearly visible to anyone at the meeting and that it is non-disruptive.

Anyone wishing to record is asked to contact the Democratic Services Officer (details below) prior to the start of the meeting.

Contact Details

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Barry Khan
Assistant Chief Executive
Legal and Democratic Services
County Hall
Northallerton

Tuesday, 9 September 2025

North Yorkshire Council

Standards and Governance Committee

Minutes of the meeting held on Friday, 20 June 2025 commencing at 10.00 am.

Councillor Clive Pearson in the Chair, plus Councillors Nick Brown, Melanie Davis, David Ireton, Andy Paraskos (as a substitute), Heather Phillips, Monika Slater and Peter Wilkinson.

In attendance virtually: Councillor Sam Cross.

Officers present: Moira Beighton, Senior Lawyer (Governance), Josie O Dowd, Governance Officer, Jennifer Norton, Assistant Director Legal and Deputy Monitoring Officer and Christine Phillipson, Principal Democratic Services Officer.

Officers present virtually: Harriet Clarke, Senior Democratic Services Officer.

Other Attendees virtually: Independent Person Gillian Baker.

Apologies: Councillor Nigel Knapton, Independent Persons Hilary Gilbertson MBE, Louise Holroyd and Jamie Nelson.

Copies of all documents considered are in the Minute Book

133 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Nigel Knapton, with Councillor Andy Paraskos attending as a substitute.

Apologies were received from Independent Persons Hillary Gilbertson MBE, Louise Holroyd and James Nelson.

134 Minutes of the Meeting Held on 14 March 2025

Resolved

The minutes of the meeting held on 14 March 2025 were agreed and signed as a correct record.

135 Declarations of Interest

There were none.

136 Public Questions and Statements

There were none.

137 Community Governance Review

Considered

The report of the Assistant Chief Executive Legal and Democratic Services and Monitoring Officer proposing a Community Governance Review (CGR) for a defined number of parish areas set out in the Terms of Reference at Appendix 1.

The Assistant Director Legal Services introduced the report and explained that parish electoral governance arrangements could be amended by a CGR, which included merging, abolishing, grouping or de-grouping parishes. A CGR must ensure that the proposed community governance reflects the interests and identities of the community and involves public consultation.

The 17 parish areas currently included within the proposed CGR were based on requests received for a CGR, as well as where the Electoral Services team had identified grouped parish councils that are not currently represented in each parish area, or internal ward boundaries that would benefit from a review. Several requests were not included within the Terms of Reference because the Local Government Boundary Commission for England's (LGBCE) initial proposals for revised NYC division boundaries affect electoral arrangements for some areas that had requested CGRs.

The Assistant Director Legal Services informed the Committee that an additional CGR request had been received since the publication of the report, which was a request to increase the size of a town council. It was noted that if approved by the Committee, the Assistant Chief Executive Legal and Democratic Services would have delegated powers to consider any further requests for a CGR from other parish areas and incorporate them into the Terms of Reference.

The alternative options considered were outlined, which were to do nothing, or conduct a full area review.

The existing governance arrangements for the 17 parish areas included within the proposed CGR were included at Annex B and the timetable was attached at Appendix 2.

The Committee were asked to consider and approve the Terms of Reference for referral to full Council for approval.

In response to the proposal outlined in the report, Members raised the following points:

- Following a query from a Member in relation to the number of parish and town councils, the Principal Democratic Services Officer confirmed that there are 729 individual parishes in North Yorkshire as cited within the report. These parishes then make up 412 parish and town councils and there are a further 160 parish meetings. Some of the individual parishes group together to form a parish council so within the 412 parish and town councils some will be made up of a number of individual parishes that may also be requesting individual precepts.
- It was confirmed that local residents would be consulted as part of the CGR, and that all comments would be considered.
- Some Members expressed that as many parish areas as possible should be considered for the review, not just the 17 areas currently proposed. In response, Members were reminded of the 12-month window to complete the review, as well as the need to manage the Council's resource and budget in the lead up to the 2027 elections.
- In response to a question regarding the timeframe in which requests had been received, it was confirmed that most requests were made post Local Government Reorganisation.
- One Member queried why the Council had not reached out directly to parish councils to inform their proposal. It was clarified that officers were only considering urgent requests received as conducting a CGR for a small number of requests was

deliverable prior to 2027.

- It was confirmed that the LGBCE had the power to alter internal parish boundaries, where its review of divisions impacts a parish council.
- Officers confirmed that all division Members covering the parish areas within scope for the CGR had been contacted and would continue to be updated on any developments.

It was moved by Councillor Peter Wilkinson and seconded by Councillor David Ireton that the Committee approves the below recommendations.

Resolved (unanimously)

- i. That the Committee considers the Terms of Reference for the Review attached at Appendix 1 for referral to full Council for approval,
- ii. That if the LGBCE final recommendations have an impact on the terms of reference the Assistant Chief Executive Legal and Democratic Services be delegated authority to amend the terms of reference accordingly; and
- iii. That if further requests for a CGR from other parish areas come forward authority be delegated to the Assistant Chief Executive Legal and Democratic Services to consider whether the request should be incorporated in this CGR and the terms of reference amended accordingly.

138 Local Ethical Framework Developments

Considered

The report of the Assistant Chief Executive Legal and Democratic Services and Monitoring Officer to update Members on the development of the national ethical framework under the Localism Act 2011.

Members receive a report at each Standards and Governance Committee meeting setting out any recent developments in the national ethical framework.

At the meeting held on 6 January 2025, Members considered the Government consultation on strengthening the standards regime and the associated LGA questionnaire and determined the Council's response to each. The Senior Governance Lawyer reported that there were no further developments on the outcome of the consultation which closed on 26 February 2025, but other organisations were now publishing the responses they had submitted and hyperlinks were included in the report.

It was reported that the Committee on Standards in Public Life had published a report on "recognising and responding to early warning signs in public sector bodies" to support public sector bodies in recognising and responding to early warning signs of emerging problems, improving accountability and transparent leadership. A link to the report was included in the meeting papers.

In response to the report, one Councillor expressed an interest for more sanctions in response to certain types of behaviour.

Resolved

To note the contents of the report.

139 Members' Attendance at Committees 2024-2025

Considered

The report of the Head of Democratic Services and Scrutiny which outlined the record of attendance of Members at meetings of the Council and its committees for the period 1 May 2024 until 30 April 2025.

A copy of the overall attendance statistics for the period 1 May 2024 until 30 April 2025 was attached at Appendix 1.

It was noted that whilst the information reflected a large proportion of the Members' attendance, it did not include all meetings.

In response to the report, the following questions were raised:

- One Member queried whether the Council or the relevant political Group was responsible for challenging councillor attendance that fell below the benchmark of 66%. In response, the Principal Democratic Services Officer explained that when these instances occurred, the Head of Democratic Services and Scrutiny would discuss this in conjunction with the Assistant Director Legal and Democratic Services.
- A request was made to include the appointment of substitutes within the attendance summary, although it was noted that this would not change the overall attendance statistics.
- Two Committee Members commented that their attendance appeared lower than expected and advised that they would look into this further.

Resolved

- i. That subject to Members' comments the report be noted, and
- ii. That copies of the statistics be circulated to the Leaders of the political groups of the Council.

140 Complaints Update

Considered

A report of the Assistant Chief Executive Legal and Democratic Services and Monitoring Officer presenting an update on standards complaints received.

The Senior Governance Lawyer reported that during the period 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024, the Council received 174 complaints that members may have breached the relevant authority's code of conduct for Members.

During the period 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025, a further 133 complaints had been received.

A detailed breakdown of the complaints statistics for the two full municipal years were attached at Appendix 1.

In the current municipal year from 1 April 2025 to date (as of 6 June 2025), a further 23 complaints had been received and a breakdown was attached at Appendix 2.

The Senior Governance Lawyer was pleased to report a steady downward trend in the

number of complaints received. The average time taken to process complaints was now significantly reduced thanks to the help of the Independent Persons, the introduction of a new pre-assessment stage for complaints to be first considered by the Monitoring Officer or Deputy Monitoring Officer, and a reduction in the number of blanket complaints against all members of parish and town councils from persistent complainants.

Resolved

That the Committee notes the current position on standards complaints received.

141 Temporary Appointments to Parish Councils

Considered

A report of the Assistant Chief Executive Legal and Democratic Services and Monitoring Officer presenting an update on temporary appointments to parish and town councils made under his delegated powers.

The Principal Democratic Services Officer explained that where parish and town councils become inquorate and cannot meet or conduct any business, a temporary appointment is made under Section 91(1) of the Local Government Act 1972 so that business can continue, and new members can be co-opted onto the parish or town council.

On 6 September 2024, the Committee delegated the power to make temporary appointments to the Assistant Chief Executive Legal and Democratic Services and Monitoring Officer, in order to streamline the process.

The report outlined the temporary appointments that had been made since this time, of which there had been 4 in total. The Principal Democratic Services Officer reported that Lillings Ambo Parish Council had no parish councillors appointed to it, and no clerk and it had therefore been included in CGR review.

In response to a query from a Member concerning the length of time division members were usually temporarily appointed onto a parish council, it was confirmed that this varied from case to case, with some division Members coming off almost instantly as soon as a co-option is made, and others staying on for several months.

Resolved

That Members note the report.

142 Standards Training Plan 2025-26

Considered

A report of the Assistant Chief Executive Legal and Democratic Services and Monitoring Officer presenting the Standards Training Plan for Members for 2025/26.

A report is brought to each ordinary meeting of the Committee for it to consider the standards training needs of Members of the Council and how best to meet them through the Standards Training Plan.

At the previous meeting on 14 March 2025, Members requested that the Training Plan contained more information regarding planned future training for Members.

The updated Standards Training Plan was attached at Appendix 1 of the report, which

included a caveat about the potential changes to the standards regime following earlier Government consultation on strengthening the regime.

Members raised the following points:

- The usefulness of the training provided to Members prior to Standards hearings.
- Officers confirmed that there was no definitive date for the introduction of any changes to the standards regime. It was acknowledged that several months had passed since the close of the consultation in February and that the delay was likely due to the requirement for new legislation. Officers agreed to keep Members updated on any developments.

Resolved

That Members consider the Standards Training Plan for Members for 2025/26 and determine whether any amendments are required.

143 Standards Bulletin

Considered

The Assistant Chief Executive Legal and Democratic Services and Monitoring Officer's report attaching a draft Standards Bulletin.

The Standards Bulletin is produced periodically and circulated to Members and relevant officers of the Council to keep them informed of key developments in the standards regime. Members previously agreed that the Bulletin should be circulated to parish and town councils in the North Yorkshire area.

The Bulletin was attached at Appendix 1 to the report.

Resolved

That the Bulletin be updated as necessary following the outcome of the Committee's meeting and approved for circulation.

144 Work Programme

Considered

The Assistant Chief Executive Legal and Democratic Services and Monitoring Officer's report on the Committee's Work Programme for 2025/26.

The Committee previously agreed it would be helpful for the Committee to implement a forward Work Programme of its work, as far as this can be anticipated.

The Programme is a standing item on each scheduled ordinary meeting of the Committee and keeps track of matters that the Committee wishes to consider/review.

A revised Work programme was attached at Appendix 1.

Resolved

That Members consider and review its Work Programme at Appendix 1.

145 Any Other Items

There was no urgent business.

The meeting concluded at 11.05 am.

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NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNCIL
STANDARDS AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

17 September 2025

Local Ethical Framework Developments

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To update Members on developments in the national ethical framework under the Localism Act 2011.

2.0 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Members receive a report at each ordinary Standards and Governance Committee meeting setting out any recent developments in the national ethical framework.

3.0 GOVERNMENT CONSULTATION ON STRENGTHENING THE STANDARDS REGIME

- 3.1 The Committee has previously considered and responded to the Government consultation on strengthening the standards regime ([Strengthening the standards and conduct framework for local authorities in England - GOV.UK](#)) (and the associated LGA Questionnaire regarding the consultation), which closed on 26 February 2025.

- 3.2 The Committee was informed at its previous meeting of:

- the responses to the consultation by the Committee on Standards in Public Life (CSPL) and the Local Government Association (LGA); and
- the statement by the Minister of State for Local Government and English Devolution, during a debate on 11 March 2025 ([Local Government: Nolan Principles - Hansard - UK Parliament](#)), that more than 2,000 submissions have been made to the consultation and Government was working “at pace” to review the results.

- 3.3 In June, the Chief Executive of the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman confirmed at a Lawyers in Local Government (LLG) conference that the Ombudsman would be open to running any national appeals body that was referenced in the Government consultation and was having discussions about this but stated that it would present challenges in terms of capacity and speed, as they would need to determine the substantive issue rather than just the process which had been followed. The Chief Executive also commented that there was “no sense ... that there's a decision made behind the scenes that they're going in any particular direction”.

- 3.4 There is no substantive update on the consultation. Members will be kept informed of developments.

4.0 ESTABLISHMENT OF ETHICS AND INTEGRITY COMMISSION

4.1 On 21 July 2025, the Government announced the intended establishment of a new Ethics and Integrity Commission, to oversee the ethical standards of ministers and public officials and “drive up standards in public life”, change the ministerial severance arrangements and the business appointment rules.

4.2 The Commission will also:

- advise Government on ethics in public life by conducting broad inquiries into topical issues;
- report annually to the Prime Minister on ethical standards in the public sector;
- engage regularly with public bodies to advise of ethical standards and the development of codes of conduct;
- convene other ethics and standards bodies from across government and Parliament to share best practice and raise concerns.

4.3 The aim is that the Commission will be established by strengthening and reforming the Committee on Standards in Public Life.

4.4 Further information is available in the published press release - [Ethics and Integrity Commission to drive up standards across the public sector - GOV.UK](#) and via the House of Commons Library Research Briefing - [Ethics and Integrity Commission - House of Commons Library](#)

5.0 CSPL ANNUAL REPORT 2024-2025

5.1 On 23 June 2025, the CSPL published its Annual Report for 2024-2025 - [Committee on Standards in Public Life Annual Report 2024 – 2025 - GOV.UK](#).

5.2 The Report reflects on the work of the CSPL during the year, promoting high standards of conduct in public life and marking the 30th anniversary of the Nolan Principles. The CSPL’s work is reported to the Standards and Governance Committee in each standing report re Local Ethical Framework Developments and highlighted in each Standards Bulletin.

6.0 CSPL CONFERENCE – ‘THE NOLAN PRINCIPLES AT 30’

6.1 The CSPL continues to mark the 30th anniversary of the Nolan Principles (general principles of conduct) and held a conference in June on ‘the Nolan Principles at 30’, to discuss the importance of maintaining high standards of conduct in public life.

6.2 The CSPL has published a blog regarding the conference - [The Nolan Principles at 30 – Committee on Standards in Public Life](#)

6.3 The key themes discussed during the conference appear to be:

- the fragile state of public trust in politics
- the complexity of public sector decision-making
- the wider societal changes that pose major challenges to institutions
- that high standards can act as an enabler, helping demonstrate that the way in which decisions, however unpopular, are made in the public interest
- the importance of building wider, cross-party agreement on standards
- that weaponisation of the standards system for political gain is damaging
- the importance of the need for high standards of conduct and its continued regular discussion

- regulatory bodies must be independent, able to scrutinise and adjudicate without fear or favour
- where necessary there must be a range of sanctions for failures and breaches
- regulation must be proportionate and fair
- the Nolan Principles have stood the test of time and remain very relevant.

7.0 **INTIMIDATION IN PUBLIC LIFE**

LGA survey – Debate not Hate

7.1 The Local Government Association has undertaken a survey of councillors as part of its Debate not Hate campaign – [More than half of councillors report being victims of misinformation, while rates of abuse and threats remain high across local government, LGA survey finds | Local Government Association](#)

7.2 The LGA notes the following regarding the survey results:

- 52% of councillors have reported having untrue or misleading information about their political or personal conduct publicly published;
- the rate of reported abuse, intimidation and threats continues to be high, with seven in 10 councillors reporting experiencing issues in the last 12 months;
- one-quarter of respondents said that they or someone closely connected to them had experienced a threat of violence or death and 21% of these had reported an incident to the police (compared to 23% last year);
- of those reporting abuse in responding:
 - 11% had had private information made public,
 - 64% had experienced abuse online;
 - 59% had experienced in-person abuse;
 - 8% had a member of the public attend their home in an intimidating or inappropriate matter
 - 1 in 20 reported being stalked by a member of the public;
 - 1 in 20 reported property damage;
 - 3% reported actual violence as part of their councillor role;
- councillors are more likely to experience abuse than others based on protected characteristics;
- analysis of protected characteristic data showed that:
 - 84% of female respondents feel at risk when fulfilling their role as a councillor, compared to 66% of male councillors
 - 86% of disabled councillors reported experiencing abuse or intimidation in the last 12 months, compared to 68% of non-disabled councillors
 - 34% of LGBT+ councillors have reported an incident of abuse or intimidation to the police compared to 20% of heterosexual councillors
 - 84% of councillors from an ethnic minority background feel at risk when fulfilling their role as a councillor, compared to 72% of white respondents
- In addition to being more likely to report experiencing abuse, risk and criminality, women and disabled councillors were more likely to cite abuse and intimidation as a factor in their decision not to run for election again.

7.3 Further details are published on the LGA website.

Action by Cheshire East Council to combat abuse of councillors

7.4 Cheshire East Council has recently issued a media release outlining the steps it is taking to combat “appalling” abuse, intimidation and harassment of, and support to, councillors - [07/08/2025 - Cheshire East takes steps to combat appalling abuse of councillors](#).

7.5 Examples of the abuse include death threats, excrement posted through letterboxes, stalking, trolling and obscene phone calls. Over a third of the councillors had considered stepping down as a result.

7.6 The recommended measures include:

- the introduction of a formal reporting process,
- the appointment of a nominated officer for councillor safety,
- the development of a comprehensive councillor safety protocol
- the provision of lone-working devices
- targeted training around conflict prevention and wellbeing
- the creation of a member champion for councillor safety, as an advocate to ensure these issues remain prioritised
- the authority “reaffirm its commitment” to the Local Government Association’s Debate not Hate public statement, to help support and encourage civility in public life
- councillors having a named Police officer contact for raising concerns

NYC Member Liaison Group on Councillor Safety

7.7 North Yorkshire Council takes Member safety seriously. The Council’s cross party Member Liaison Group on Councillor Safety was established in May 2024 and has met six times to date, next due to meet on 25 September 2025. It is supported by the Assistant Chief Executive Legal and Democratic Services & Monitoring Officer and the Head of Democratic Services and Scrutiny and is also attended by the Head of Health and Safety and two North Yorkshire Police Officers.

7.8 The Group has undertaken a number of practical steps to promote Member safety, including:

- Consideration of the Local Government Association’s ‘Debate Not Hate’ campaign and supporting toolkit action points and work undertaken by other authorities to promote councillor safety, to provide a framework against which progress locally can be assessed;
- An all-councillor survey on member safety completed and the results analysed and responded to in November/December 2024;
- A system for the reporting, collation and analysis of incidences where councillors have felt or been threatened or intimidated during the course of their duties has been in place since March 2025;
- Developing strong relationships with the Police to enhance coordination and foster mutual understanding of abuse affecting councillors and the role of the Police in addressing it, including the establishment of a named Police officer contact as Elected Officials Advisor, who is available to speak with and support councillors who have concerns regarding their safety;

- Councillors concerned about their physical safety can apply for funding for practical measures to increase security at their homes;
- Councillor addresses and phone numbers can be removed from the Council website where there are concerns around safety;
- Councillor access to wellbeing services can be enabled upon request;
- Training and awareness raising on a range of issues is periodically undertaken through the Member seminars and briefings;

7.9 The Group has identified further areas for consideration, including:

- An annual all-councillor survey;
- The establishment of a wellbeing or councillor safety champion;
- A review of relevant policies on safety matters that are currently in place to see whether they apply to councillors as well as officers;
- Training and/or briefings for councillors on the following: personal safety and risk assessment; social media training and digital citizenship; and conflict de-escalation;
- Provision of mentor support for councillors, made available following an incident, and how this would be done;
- A review of the current level of support that is available to councillors through the employee wellbeing services.

7.10 Members will be kept informed of developments.

8.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

8.1 There are no significant financial implications arising from this report.

9.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

9.1 The legal implications are set out in the body of this report.

10.0 ENVIRONMENTAL/CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS

10.1 There are no significant environmental implications arising from this report.

11.0 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

11.1 There are no significant equalities implications arising from this report.

<h2>12.0 <u>RECOMMENDATIONS</u></h2>

<p>12.1 That the Committee notes the contents of this report.</p>

BARRY KHAN
Assistant Chief Executive Legal and Democratic Services and Monitoring Officer

County Hall
NORTHALLERTON

1 September 2025

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNCIL

STANDARDS AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

17 September 2025

Complaints Update

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To update the Committee regarding standards complaint activity.

2.0 BACKGROUND

2.1 A standing report regarding complaints that Members and voting co-opted Members of North Yorkshire Council and parish and town councils in North Yorkshire may have breached the relevant Code of Conduct for Members is brought to scheduled ordinary meetings of the Standards and Governance Committee and other meetings as the Monitoring Officer deems appropriate.

2.2 North Yorkshire Council is the principal authority for parish and town councils in North Yorkshire for the purposes of the standards provisions in the Localism Act 2011. It is responsible for receiving and handling complaints that a parish/town councillor may have breached that authority's code of conduct for Members. That is the extent of North Yorkshire Council's jurisdiction in respect of parish/town council governance; parish/town councils are separate legal entities responsible for their own general governance and North Yorkshire Council has no jurisdiction to consider other complaints for example about the way in which the parish/town council has or has not done something, or about particular parish/town council decisions or employees.

3.0 CONTEXT AND SCALE

3.1 Within North Yorkshire there are currently:

- 729 individual parishes
- 412 parish and town councils, including the new town councils for Harrogate and Scarborough
- 160 parish meetings
- 90 NYC councillors

3.2 The national context:

- NYC has the largest number of parish and town councils of any local authority in the country
- The next nearest council - Somerset Council has 272 plus three groups of councils
- 51% have less than 30
- 97.5% of councils have less than 200
- There are only 6 councils with over 200 parish councils
- Only 2 councils have over 300 parish councils

3.3 The North Yorkshire context:

NYC is one of the largest local authorities in the country, in terms of geographic

area, and there is a significant number of the smallest form of parish sector organisations, parish meetings (24%). Overall, parish sector organisations are generally smaller and charge a smaller precept (if any) than other similar councils. This uniquely larger number of parish Sector organisations are spread over a significantly large rural area and generally have very limited resources.

- Within the NYC area the average precept charge is 75% less than the national average (£20,212)
- 46.6% of Parish Councils have total annual precept income less than £5k
- Only 5.6% (28) Parish Councils have total annual precept income more than £100k
- Only 4 (0.8%) Parish Councils have total annual precept income more than £300k

4.0 STANDARDS COMPLAINTS RECEIVED

Previous municipal years

- 4.1 During the period 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024, the Council received **174** complaints that members may have breached the relevant authority's code of conduct for Members.
- 4.2 During the period 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025, a further **133** complaints were received.
- 4.3 A more detailed breakdown of the complaints statistics for the two full municipal years is attached at **Appendix 1** to this report for Members' information.
- 4.4 The statistics for the municipal years 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 are now published on the Council's website at:

[Councillors' code of conduct | North Yorkshire Council](#)

Current municipal year

- 4.5 During the period 1 April 2025 to 29 August 2025, a further **39** complaints have been received.
- 4.6 A more detailed breakdown of the complaints statistics for the current year is attached at **Appendix 2** to this report for Members' information.

5.0 BREAKDOWN OF COMPLAINT STATISTICS

Pre-assessments and Assessments for the current year

- 5.1 So far this municipal year, of the **39** complaints received:
- a) **20** complaints were pre-assessed by the Monitoring Officer/Deputy Monitoring Officer and did not proceed to full assessment. These included:
- **1** against an NYC Councillor where there was no evidence presented that the councillor was acting in their official capacity at the relevant times;
 - **14** against councillors and clerks of two parish councils which did not progress to an assessment as they were deemed to be outside the Monitoring Officer's jurisdiction as they related to matters of internal parish council governance and parish council employees.
 - **1** against a parish councillor where there was no evidence presented that the councillor was acting in their official capacity at the relevant times;
 - **1** which was mistakenly sent to the NYC Monitoring Officer when it related

- to another council.
 - **1** which was a second anonymous complaint against an NYC Councillor – the first related complaint had been assessed and no further action was required.
 - **1** against an NYC Councillor where there was no evidence of a breach of the Code but in any event the subject member had already apologised to the complainant.
 - **1** against a town councillor where there was no evidence that comments on social media were posted whilst the councillor was acting in their official capacity.
- b) **14** complaints have progressed to assessment by the Monitoring Officer/Deputy Monitoring Officer in consultation with the Independent Persons for Standards. Of those assessed complaints:
- i. **11** complaints did not merit referral for formal investigation, for example:
 - a parish councillor's failure to declare an interest, which had been addressed by them;
 - allegations of a parish councillor bullying and harassing the clerk where insufficient evidence was provided of a potential breach of the relevant code of conduct;
 - two concerned different NYC Councillors, one relating to levels of engagement with a parish council, and the other regarding alleged disrespect, whereby in both cases there was insufficient evidence presented of a potential breach of the Code of Conduct;
 - two concerned the same NYC Councillor from the same member of the public - in both cases there was insufficient evidence presented of a potential breach of the Code of Conduct;
 - an anonymous complaint regarding an NYC Councillor alleging illegal activity which was not evidenced.
 - ii. **1** complaint was recommended for informal resolution: the parish councillor concerned was urged to consider apologising to the complainant.
 - iii. **2** complaints have been referred for investigation (**Investigations 11 and 12** listed in section 5.2 below).
- c) **5** further complaints will have been assessed by the time of this meeting.

The remaining complaints are in preparatory stages or awaiting assessment. A further update will be given to the Committee when the Monitoring Officer is in a position to do so.

Investigations/Determinations since Vesting Day

5.2 Since Vesting Day (1 April 2023), 34 complaints have been referred for investigation, through 12 investigations:

- **Investigation 1** – 1 complaint against 1 North Yorkshire Councillor. Referred to Hearings Panel. **Breach of Code found**. Sanction – apologies. Recommendations made to authority.
- **Investigation 2** – 1 complaint against 11 Town Councillors. Referred to Hearings Panel. **No breach**. Recommendations made to authority.
- **Investigation 3** – 1 complaint against 2 individual Parish Councillors.

Referred to Hearings Panel. **Breach of Code found.** Recommended sanction – apologies, training, review of one PC Code.

- **Investigation 4** – 1 complaint against 1 individual Parish Councillor.
Referred to Hearings Panel. **Breach of Code found.** Sanction – recommended that PC issue private letter of censure to the subject Member.
- **Investigation 5** – 2 complaints from different individuals about the same matter against 1 Town Councillor.
The Investigating Officer found **no evidence of breach** of code. Accepted by Monitoring Officer and Independent Person as sufficient. No further action required.
- **Investigation 6** - 1 complaint against 1 individual Parish Councillor.
Referred to Hearings Panel. **Breach of Code found.** Sanction – recommended that the subject Member undertake inclusion and diversity training.
- **Investigation 7** – 2 complaints from different individuals about the same matter against 1 North Yorkshire Councillor.
Complaint is live. The Monitoring Officer will update the Committee when in a position to do so.
- **Investigation 8** – 2 complaints about the same matter against 4 Town Councillors.
The Investigating Officer found **no evidence of breach** of code. Accepted by Monitoring Officer and Independent Person as sufficient. No further action required.
- **Investigation 9** – 3 complaints about the same matter against 1 Town Councillor.
The Investigating Officer concluded that there was **evidence of a breach** of the code by the subject member who had since resigned. In accordance with section 9 of the North Yorkshire Council standards complaints procedure, the Deputy Monitoring Officer consulted the Independent Person for Standards and the parties and was satisfied the matter could reasonably be **resolved informally** without the need for a Hearing.
- **Investigation 10** – 1 complaint against 1 individual Town Councillor.
The Investigating Officer found **no evidence of breach** of code. Accepted by Monitoring Officer and Independent Person as sufficient. No further action required.
- **Investigation 11** – 1 complaint against 1 North Yorkshire Councillor.
Complaint is live. The Monitoring Officer will update the Committee when in a position to do so.
- **Investigation 12** – 1 complaint against 1 North Yorkshire Councillor.
Complaint is live. The Monitoring Officer will update the Committee when in a position to do so.

5.3 The volume of complaints and associated correspondence and information governance requests meant a sustained heavy workload for officers and the Independent Persons during the first two years since Vesting Day. We are pleased to report that the flow of new complaints is reducing and the average time taken to process complaints is now significantly reduced as the previous backlog has been eroded. The Monitoring Officer and Deputy Monitoring Officer would again wish to take this opportunity to thank all the Independent Persons for their valued views, time, patience and input into what can be time-consuming and complex matters.

6.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 There are no significant financial implications arising from this report.

7.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

7.1 There are no significant legal implications arising from this report.

8.0 ENVIRONMENTAL/CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS

8.1 There are no significant environmental/climate change implications arising from this report.

9.0 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

9.1 There are no significant equalities implications arising from this report

10.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

10.1 That the Committee notes the current position on standards complaints received.

BARRY KHAN

Assistant Chief Executive, Legal and Democratic Services and Monitoring Officer

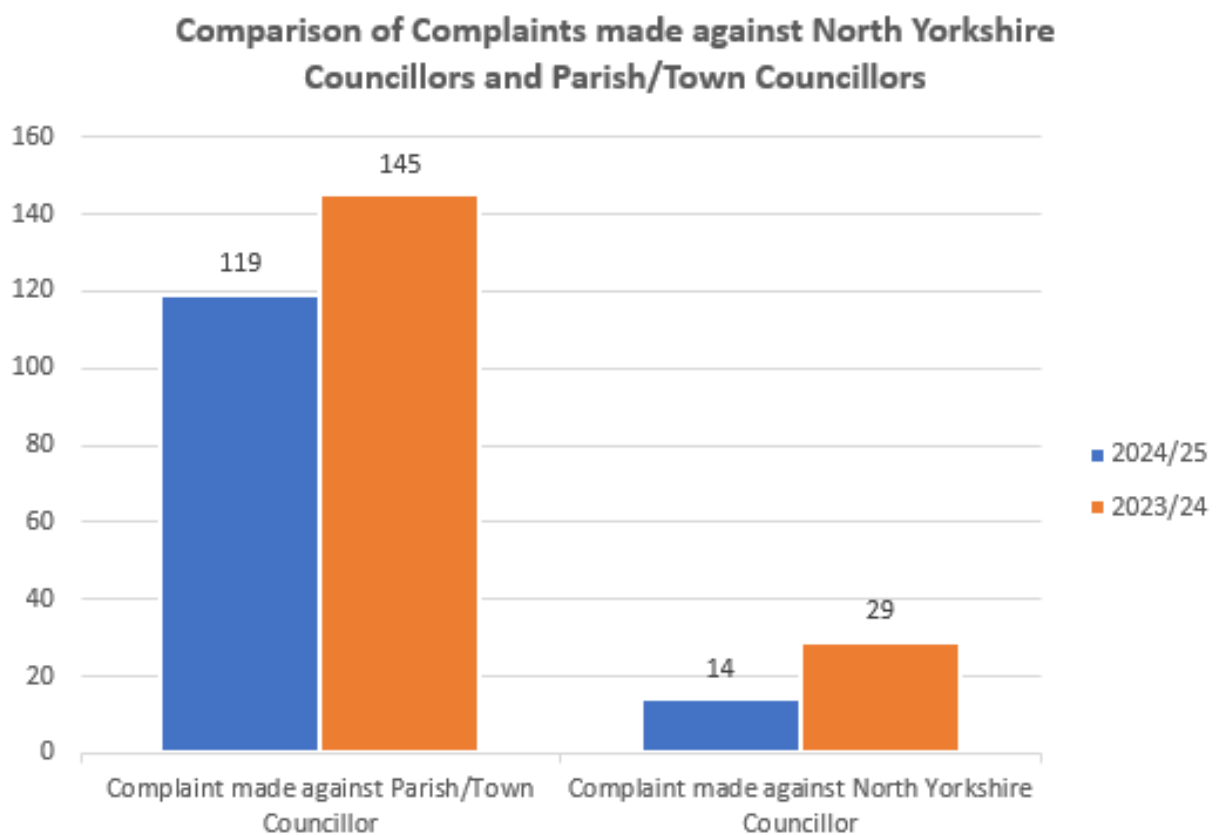
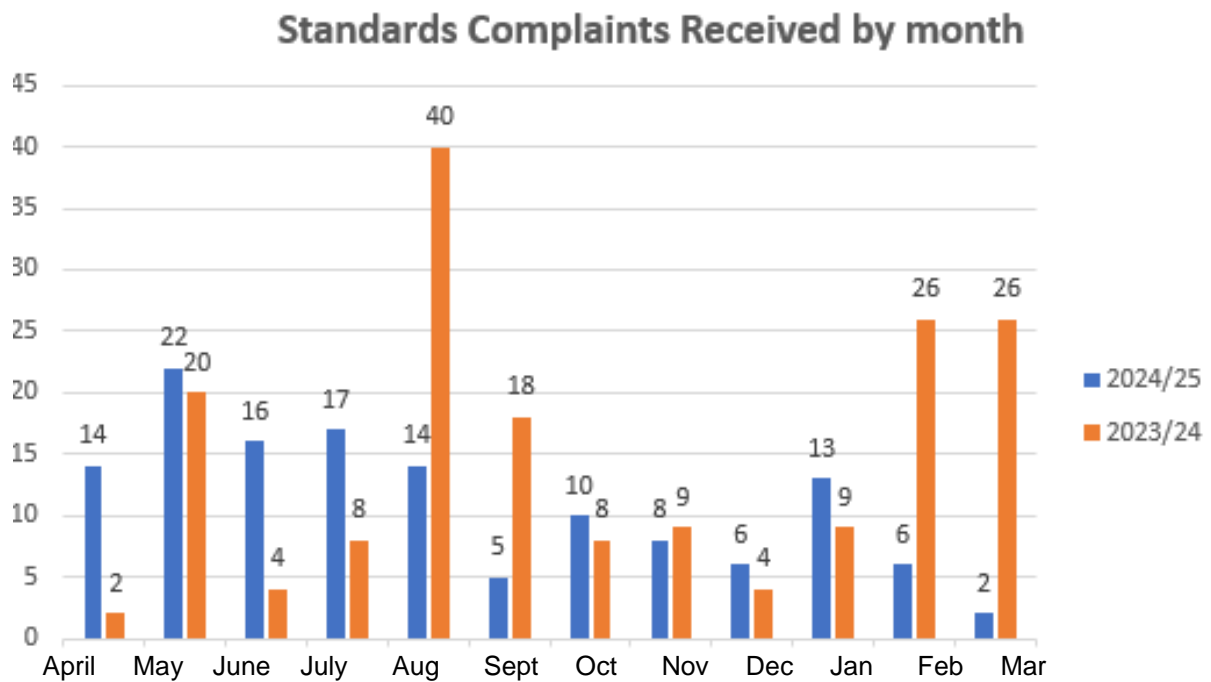
Background Documents: None

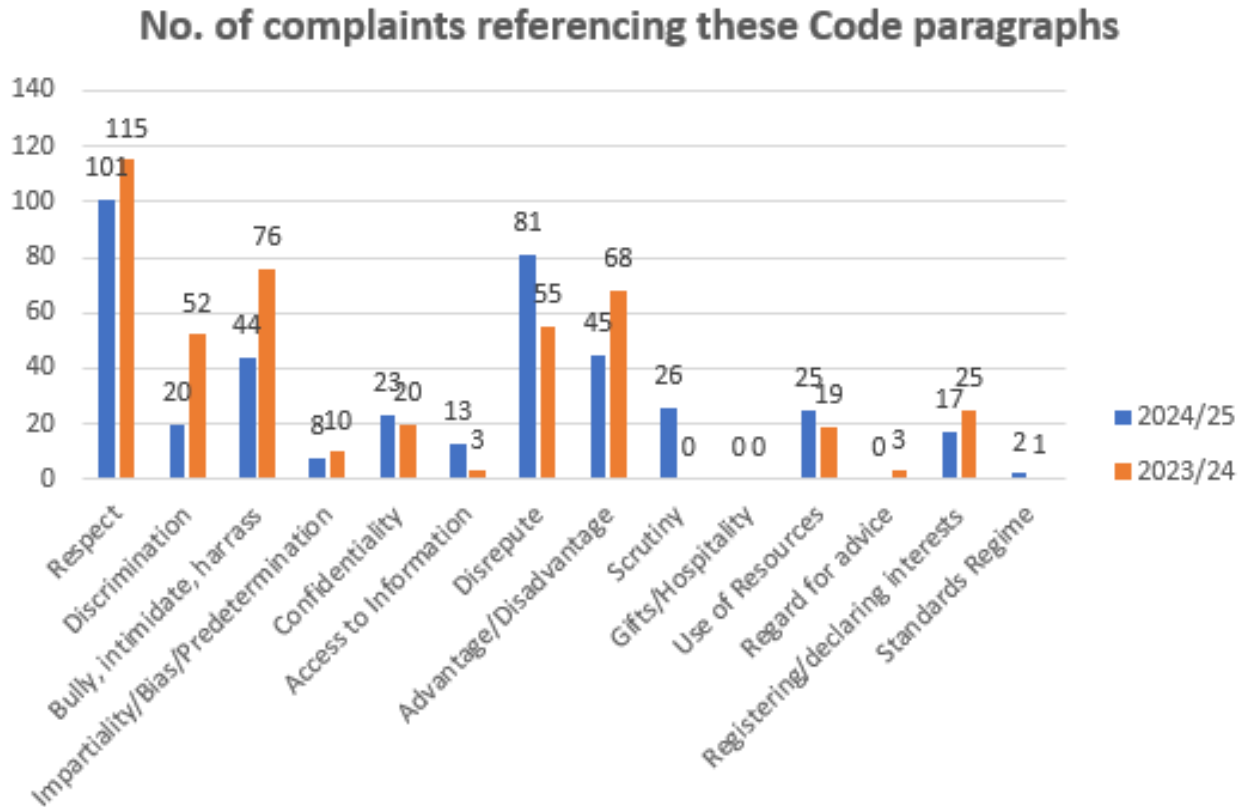
County Hall
NORTHALLERTON

3 September 2025

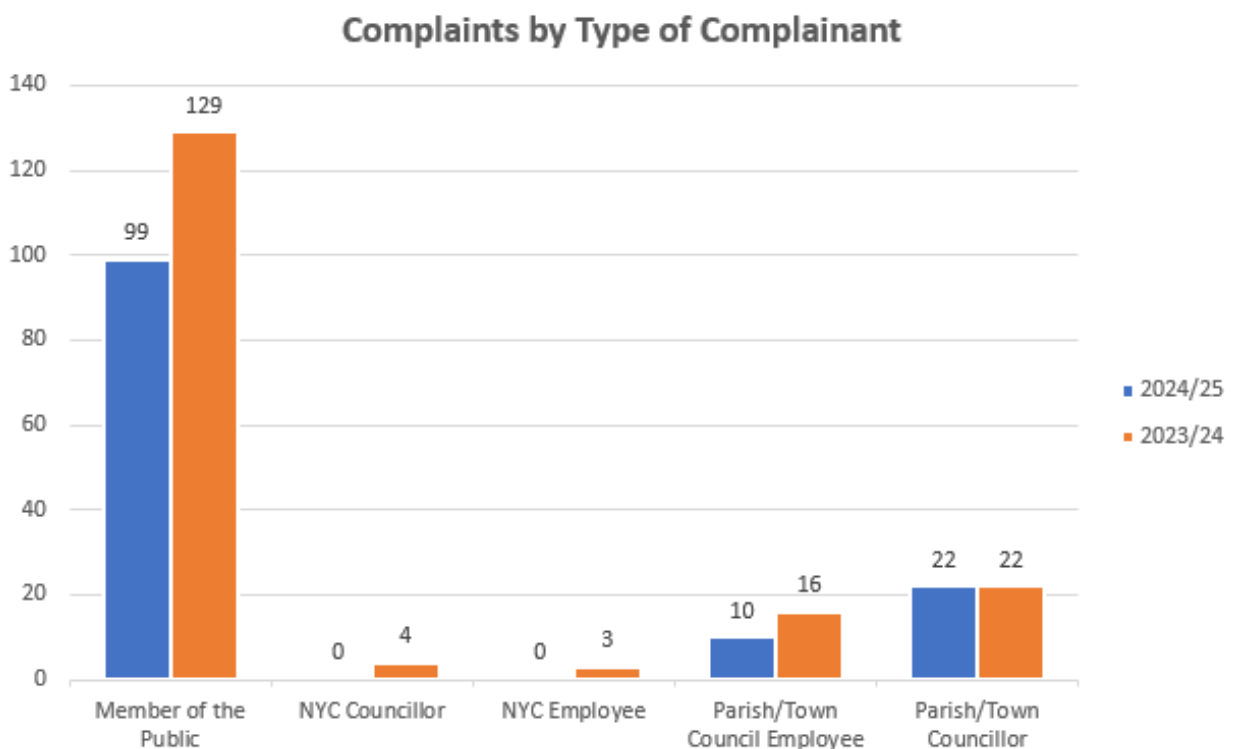
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Comparison of Complaints received: 2023-2024 and 2024-2025



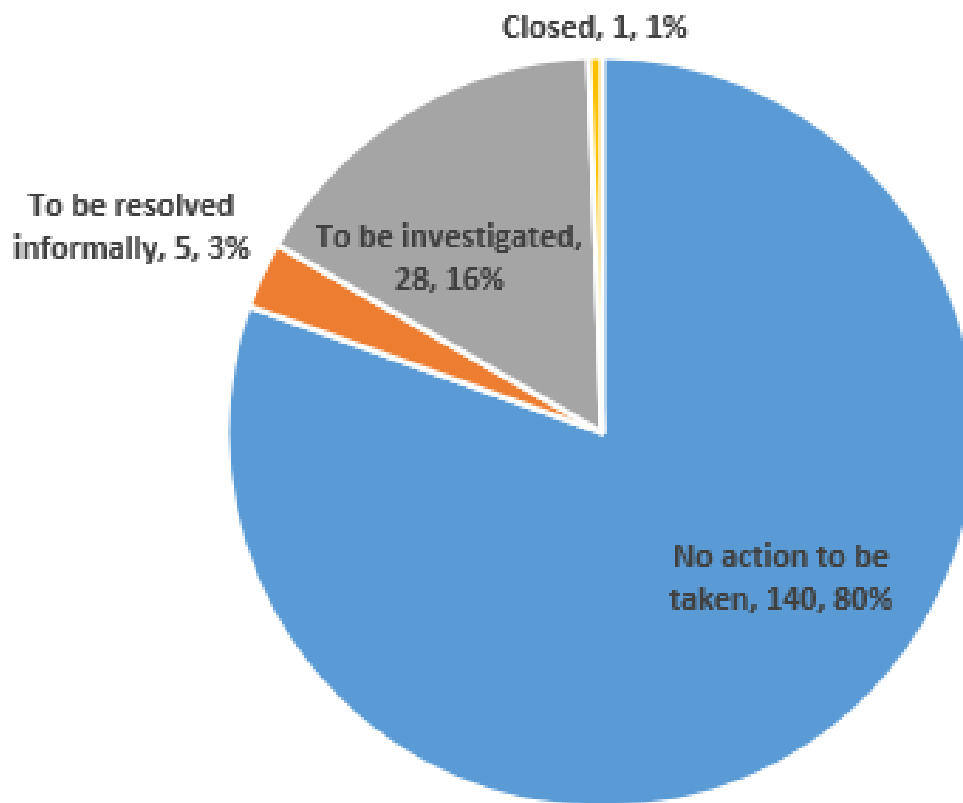


NB: Complaints may reference several paragraphs of the Code as being breached

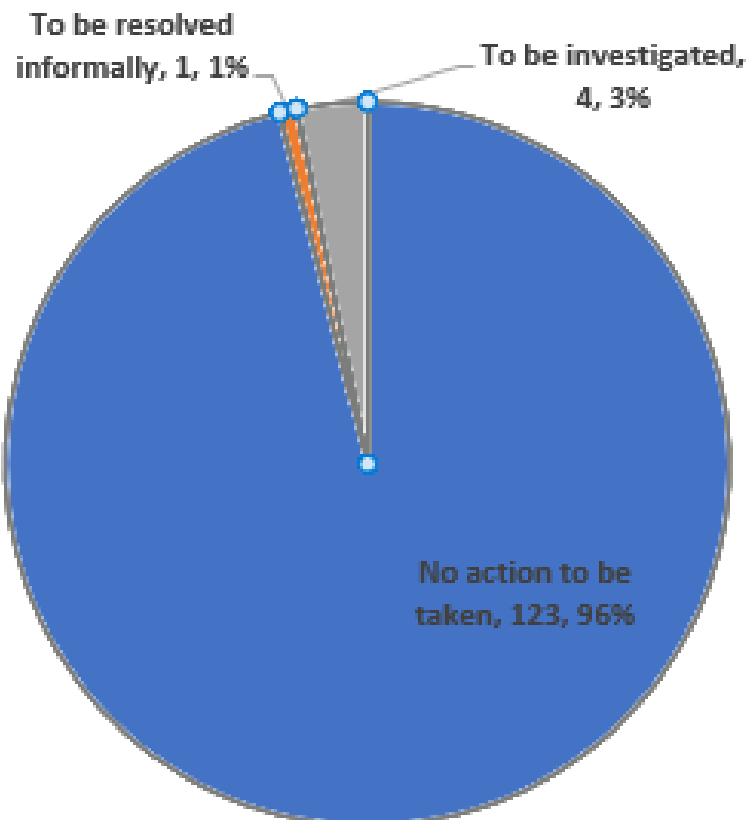


Complaint Assessment Outcomes – All Complaints

2023-2024



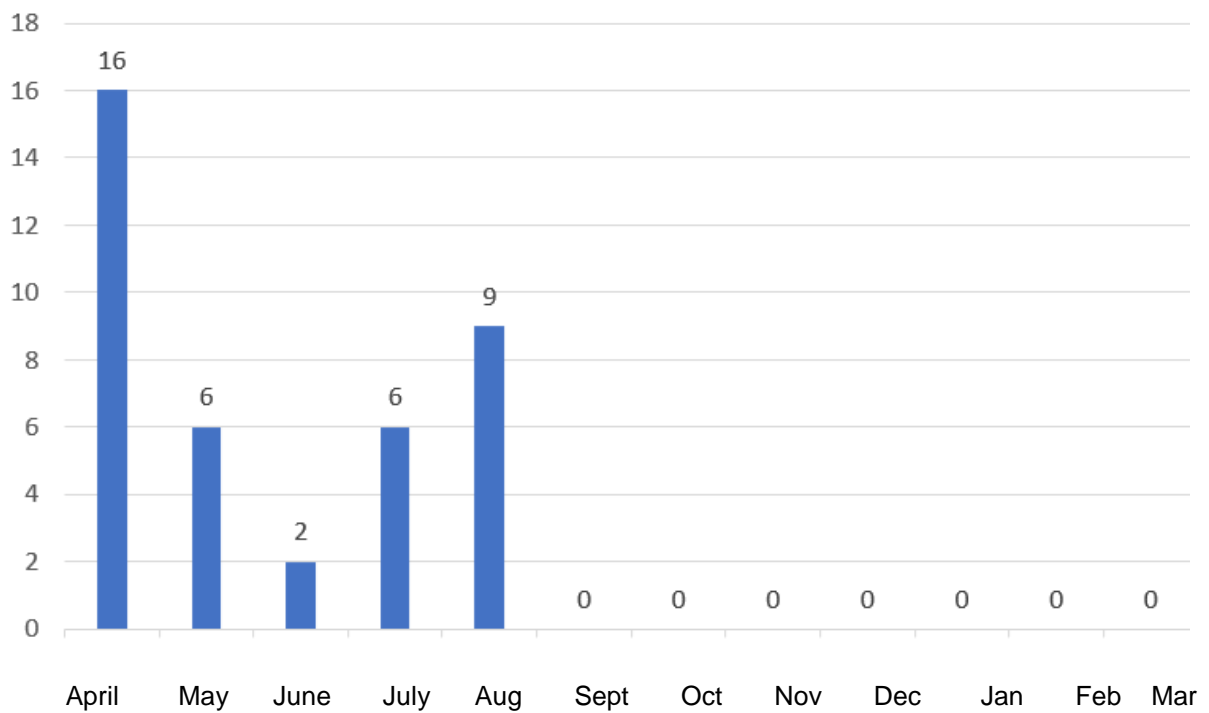
2024-2025



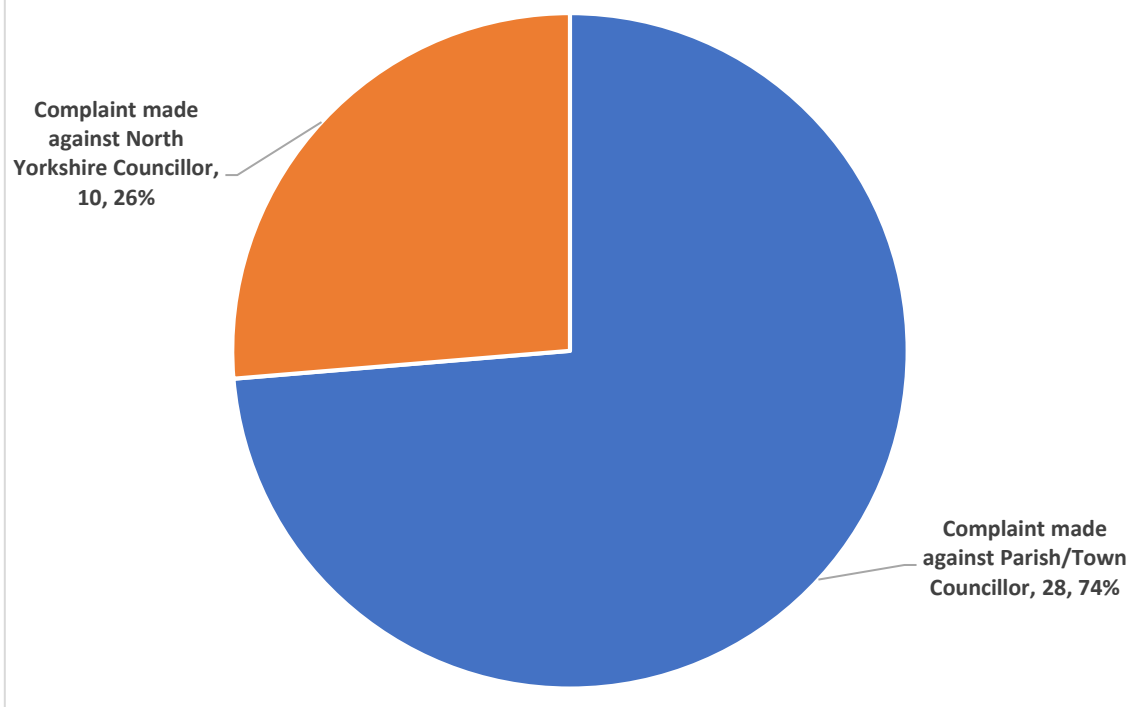
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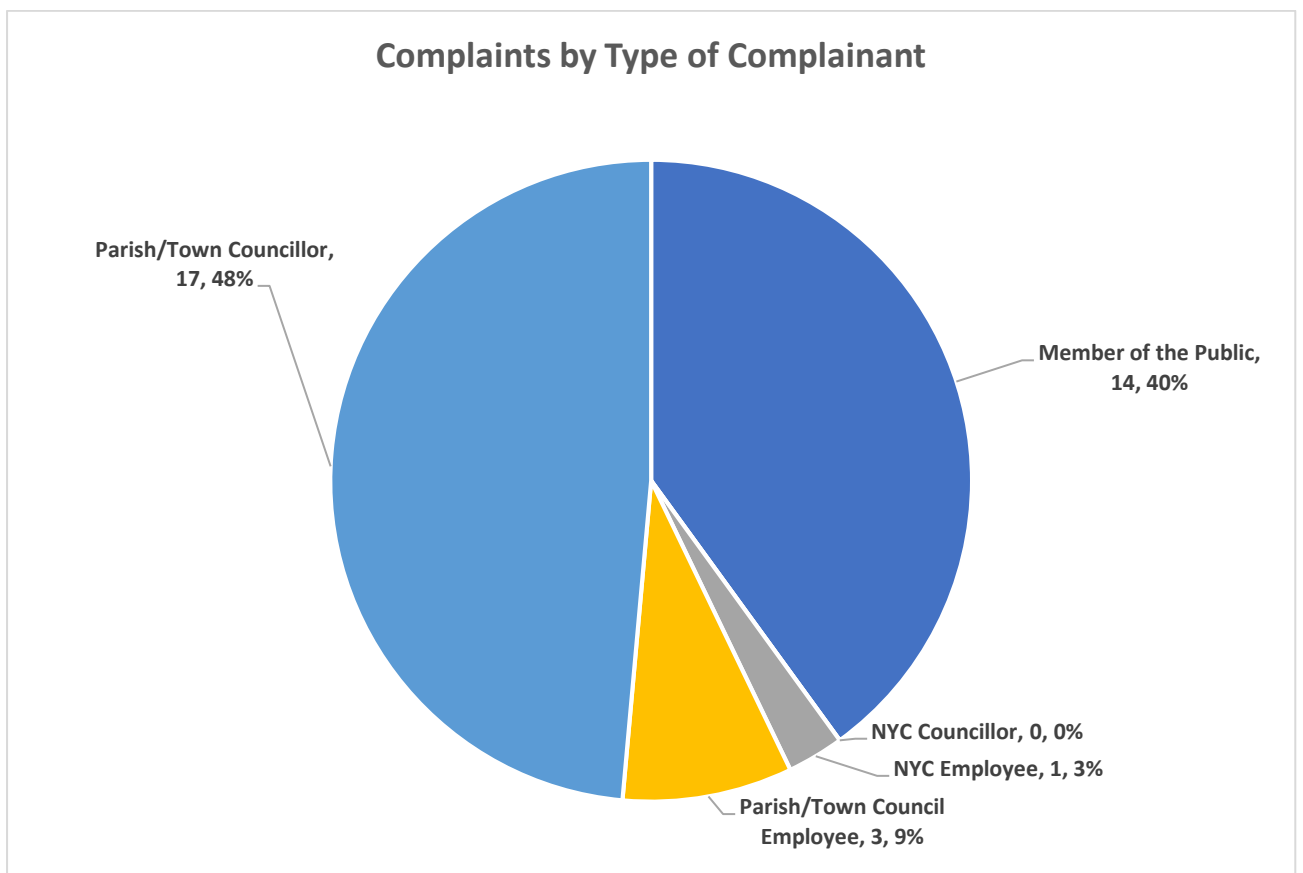
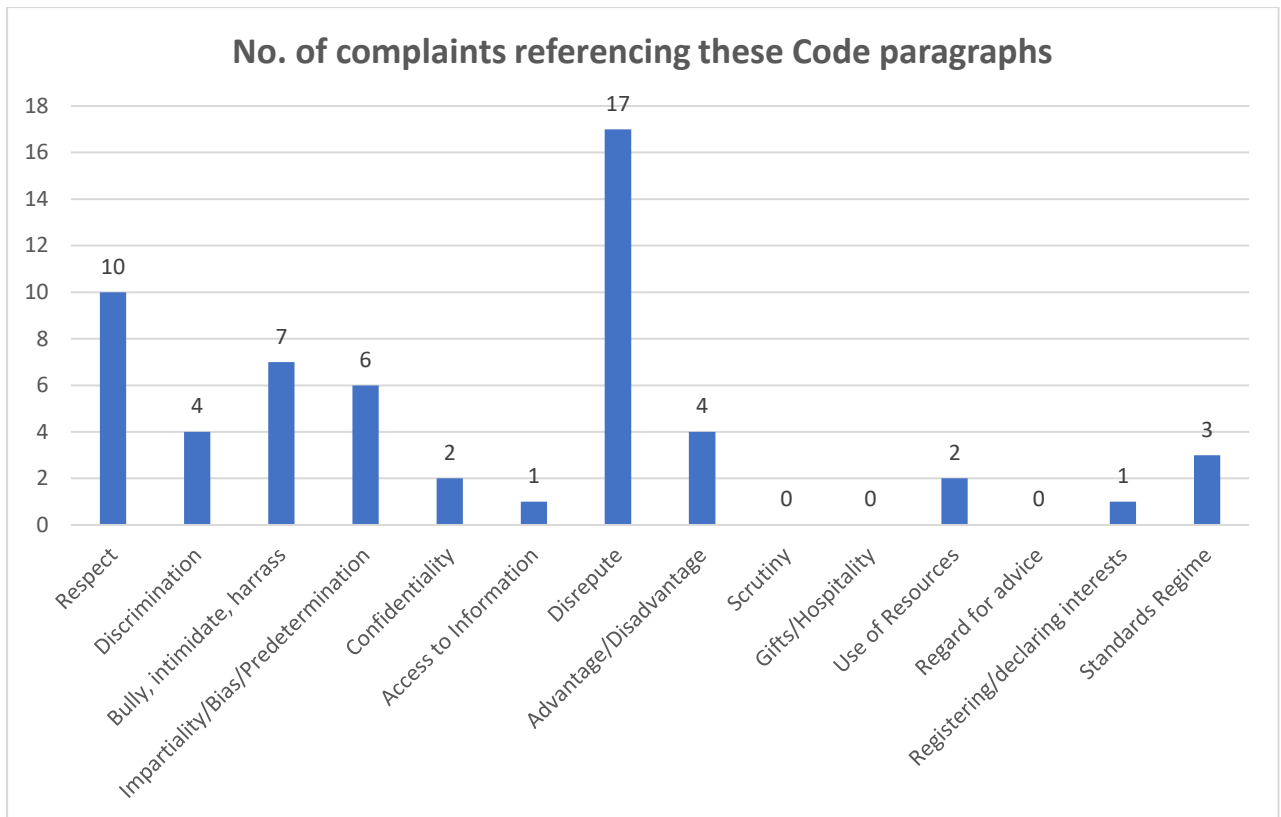
Complaints Received Year to date (as 29 August) 2025-2026

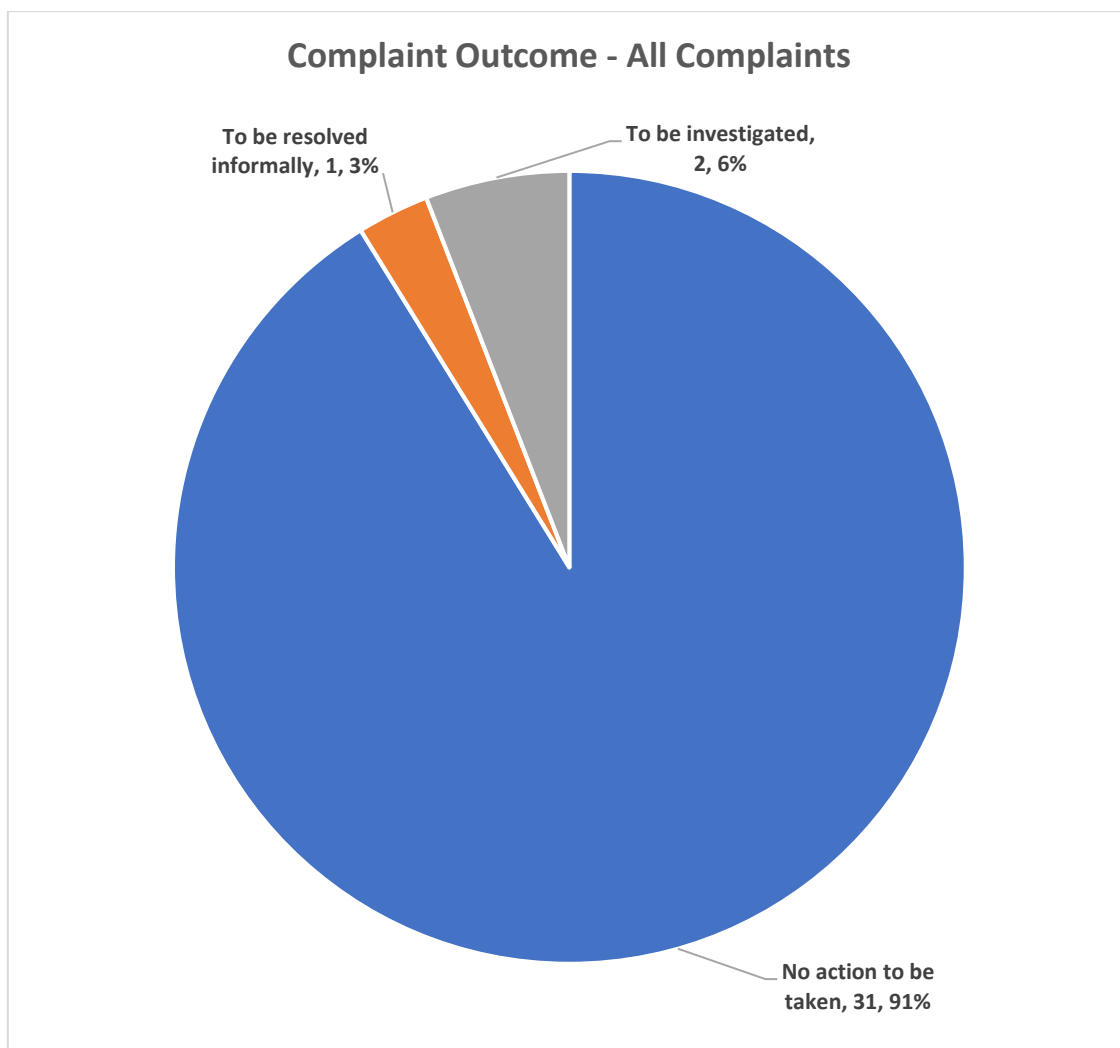
Standards Complaints Received by Month



Comparison of Complaints made against North Yorkshire Councillors and Parish/Town Councillors







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Standards and Governance Committee

17 September 2025

Final Recommendations of the Kirby Grindalythe and Duggleby Parish Community Governance Review

Report of Assistant Chief Executive, Legal and Democratic Services

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT
1.1 A Community Governance Review (CGR) for the parish of Kirby Grindalythe and Duggleby commenced on 13 November 2024 following a resolution by Full Council. The purpose of the review was to consider and determine the most appropriate future governance for this area.
1.2 The Standards and Governance Committee are asked to agree the recommendations to be presented to Full Council for approval.

2.0 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 A CGR is a review of the whole or part of an authority's area to consider one or more of the following:
- the creation, merger, alteration or abolition of parishes;
 - the naming of parishes and the style of new parishes;
 - the electoral arrangements for parishes (i.e., the ordinary year of election; council size; number of councillors to be elected to the council; and parish warding); and
 - the grouping or de-grouping of parishes

to ensure that local governance continues to be effective and convenient and that it reflects the identities and interests of local communities. The recommendations arising from a CGR should deliver improved community engagement, more cohesive communities, better local democracy and result in a more efficient delivery of local services.

3.0 KIRBY GRINDALYTHE AND DUGGLEBY PARISH COUNCIL

- 3.1 Kirby Grindalythe and Duggleby Parish Council (KGDPC) comprises of 7 seats and requires a minimum of 3 seats to be filled to be considered quorate. It is situated in the North Yorkshire Council Division of Thornton Dale and Wolds. The Parish Council has been without a parish clerk since September 2020. The Council covers an electorate of 260.
- 3.2 It has been difficult to maintain quoracy of KGDPC in recent months. The three remaining Parish Councillors, having been appointed at an uncontested election in May 2022, failed to attend Parish Meetings for a period of 6 months, and therefore have ceased to be members under Section 85 (1) of the Local Government Act 1972.
- 3.3 At the Standards and Governance Committee meeting on the 15 March 2024 a temporary order was approved appointing the division member for Easingwold, Councillor Nigel Knapton, the division member for Thornton Dale and Wolds, Councillor Janet Sanderson and the division member for Sherriff Hutton and Derwent, Cllr Caroline Goodrick under Section 91 (1) of the Local Government Act 1972 to Kirby Grindalythe Parish Council in order to make it quorate.

3.4 At the Annual Parish Meeting and Parish Council meeting, members of the community present requested a CGR to abolish KG&D Parish Council and form two separate Parish Meetings.

Information held by Elections confirm that Duggleby is a Hamlet within Kirby Grindalythe and Duggleby Parish. The parish is not warded and Duggleby is not a separate parish. It once was a separate parish but merged with Kirby Grindalythe on 1 April 1935 and is now one polling district with no separate statistics or borders for the Duggleby part of the parish. The electorate was 260 as at 1 August 2024, with a forecast electorate of 265 for 2030. The original parish boundary map is included at appendix 1 for reference.

3.5 The Division Member has confirmed that the Parish Council has no assets or functions other than to raise a precept to pay for a clerk. The Division Member was supportive of conducting a CGR.

4.0 COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW CONSULTATION FEEDBACK

4.1 Stage 1 – completed between 14 December 2024 and 28 February 2025

We received 55 responses from a total of 251 questionnaires which were sent to every registered elector in the parish of Kirby Grindalythe and Duggleby. This equates to a 22% response rate.

31 of the 55 responses (i.e. 57%) agreed that it would be more practical to dissolve the parish council in its current format and to have a community meeting-based model instead.

The additional free text responses suggested that two parish meetings would better represent the community's identities rather one single parish for the whole area with one parish meeting.

All of the responses to stage 1 can be found [here](#)

4.2 Stage 2 – completed between 11 April and 23 May 2025

This second stage of consultation therefore focused on seeking views on a specific proposal which reflected the majority view expressed in the first stage of consultation, that Kirby Grindalythe and Duggleby Parish Council be dissolved and replaced by a 'Parish Meeting' form of governance in two newly created parish areas, those being:

- Duggleby and Northstead Parish; and
- Kirby Grindalythe Parish.

The proposed parishes will have an electorate of 106 for Duggleby and Northstead Parish and 147 for Kirby Grindalythe Parish. In cases where a review recommends the formation of a new parish which has 150 or fewer local government electors, the review must recommend that the parish should not have a parish council. However, that rule does not apply if, as is the case here, any part of the parish is a parish which currently has a council.

We received a total of 43 responses to the second stage consultation which equates to 17%.

Following the second consultation with residents of Kirby Grindalythe and Duggleby about the future governance of Kirby Grindalythe and Duggleby Parish Council there was strong agreement to forming two separate parish meetings, however the consensus was that they should be named Kirby Grindalythe Parish and Duggleby Parish.

The Division Member also suggested that the properties in Sheepwalk Lane, currently in the Kirby Grindalythe Parish be included in the West Luttons Parish. Altering the external boundary with neighbouring parishes requires undertaking a consultation with any other parishes who are affected and their residents.

We therefore commenced a stage 3 consultation with residents of Luttons seeking their views on the specific proposal to include an additional properties in Sheepwalk Lane within the Luttons Parish boundary. This would increase the electorate of Luttons to 335.

All of the responses to stage 2 can be found [here](#)

4.3 Stage 3 – completed between 31 July and 29 August 2025

This third stage therefore focused on seeking the views of residents of Luttons on the specific proposal to include an additional two properties on Sheepwalk Lane within the Luttons Parish boundary. This would increase the electorate of Luttons to 335.

We received 41 responses to the third stage consultation which equates to 22 % of the electorate.

There was a strong agreement from respondents supporting the properties in Sheepwalk Lane being included in the Luttons parish with 87% in agreement. The additional free text responses agreed that this made sense as those properties were by default more logically situated within Luttons parish.

All of the responses to stage 3 can be found [here](#)

The suggested new mapping of the parish is attached at appendix 3.

Feedback from the consultation also identified that some additional properties in Sheepwalk Lane were flagged as needing to be included within the new boundary also. We will write to all the residents in Sheepwalk Lane (6 properties) to advise them of this and seek their agreement.

5.0 FINAL OUTCOME

5.1 The working group reviewed the consultation feedback at each individual stage and consisted of Cllrs Knapton, Davis and Pearson with input from Cllrs Goodrick and Sanderson as well as the Assistant Director Legal Operations & Deputy Monitoring Officer and the Principal Democratic Services Officer.

Residents and stakeholders provided strong evidence agreeing that it would be more practical to dissolve the parish council in its current format and to have two community meeting-based models instead.

The two newly created parish areas should be called Duggleby Parish and Kirby Grindalythe Parish.

There was also support for including all of the properties (6) in Sheepwalk Lane within the Luttons parish boundary.

5.2 Parish Meetings

Parish meetings are recognised for a number of statutory purposes. The parish meeting comprises the local government electors for the parish coming together for the purpose of discussing parish affairs and exercising any statutory functions conferred on them. The parish meeting must assemble annually between 1 March and 1 June and on at least one

other occasion during the year on a date to be fixed by the Chair of the meeting. At the Annual Meeting the electorate attending the meeting choose a member of the electorate to become chair of the parish meeting for the ensuing year. There are no elected councillors for a parish meeting.

5.3 Consequence of Dissolving a Parish Council

There are several consequential issues which will need to be addressed when dissolving the Parish Council and establishing the parish meetings

If a parish has no parish council, section 13 of the Local Government Act 1972 provides that the Chair of the parish meeting and the proper officer of the Principal Council (North Yorkshire Council) are the body corporate of the parish meeting and are known as “the Parish Trustees”. Section 13(4) states that the parish trustees of a parish shall act in accordance with any directions given by the parish meeting. North Yorkshire Council’s constitution designates the Assistant Chief Executive Legal and Democratic Services or, in their absence, the Head of Democratic Services and Scrutiny as the proper officer for the purpose of s13

Arrangements will need to be made to change the bank account name and the signing authority on the account. In keeping with the notion of Parish Trustees as mentioned above, it may be prudent that signing authority on the parish meeting bank account fall to the Chair of the parish meeting

As there will be more than one parish meeting covering the former parish council area, the financial balances and liabilities of the abolished parish council should be divided proportionally based on the population of the areas transferred to each newly created parish.

The Yorkshire Local Council association are in agreement with this proposal.

6.0 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 6.1 To not conduct a CGR and leave the Parish Council as is. This was not recommended as there is clearly a difficulty in getting individuals to come forward and stand for election or be co-opted on to the Parish Council.

7.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 The Parish is no longer claiming a precept.

8.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Reviews of parishes and parish councils are governed by chapter 3 of Part 4 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 (“the Act”). The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government and the Local Government Boundary Commission for England have given guidance on community governance reviews in England

Section 3 of the Guidance deals with making and implementing recommendations in community governance reviews and notes at paragraph 50 that the “views of local communities and inhabitants are of central importance”.

Paragraph 120 of the Guidance states that “Exceptionally, there may be circumstances where abolition may be the most appropriate way forward. Under the 2007 Act provisions,

the principal council would need to consider local opinion, including that of parish councillors and local electors. It would need to find evidence that the abolition of a parish council was justified, and that there was clear and sustained local support for such action.”

In this case, the majority of the residents who responded have stated that they do support the abolition of the existing Parish Council and agree that, a more convenient means of community governance for the local area, would be for 2 parish meeting to be established in its place as described in this report and consultation documents.

9.0 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

9.1 There are no equality implications arising from this report.

10.0 CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS

10.1 There are no climate change implications arising from this report.

11.0 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

11.1 The three stages of the CGR feedback suggests that the community are agreeable to the dissolving of Kirby Grindalythe & Duggleby Parish Council and creating two Parish Meetings instead named Kirby Grindalythe Parish meeting and Duggleby Parish meeting.

11.2 The additional suggestion of moving the properties in Sheepwalk Lane to be included in the Luttons parish was also strongly supported. The residents of all the properties in Sheepwalk Lane will be contacted to ensure they are agreeable to this change.

12.0 RECOMMENDATION(S)

12.1 That the Committee supports and agrees, and forwards to Full Council for approval, the following recommendations:

- The dissolving of Kirby Grindalythe and Duggleby Parish Council and replacing it with two parish meetings named Kirby Grindalythe Parish meeting and Duggleby Parish meeting.
- The inclusion of the properties in Sheepwalk Lane (6) into Luttons Parish.
- Arrangements to be made to change the bank account name and the signing authority on the account.

APPENDICES:

Appendix 1 – Original Kirby Grindalythe and Duggleby Parish Map boundary

Appendix 2 – Boundary map with separate Kirby Grindalythe Parish and Duggleby Parish boundaries identified

Appendix 3 – Map identifying the Sheepwalk Lane properties to be included in Luttons parish – To follow.

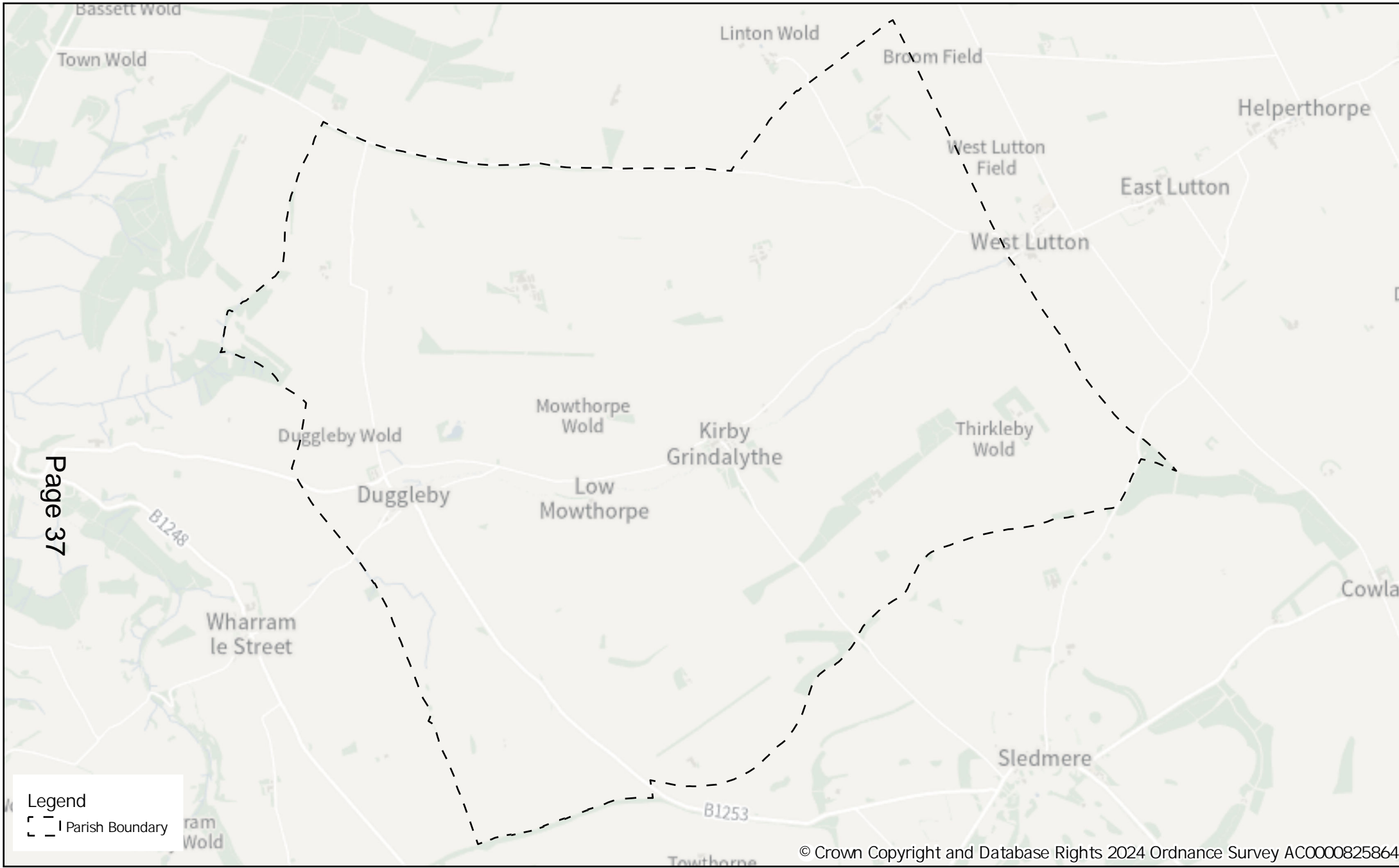
Barry Khan
Assistant Chief Executive, Legal and Democratic Services
County Hall

Northallerton

Report Author:

Jennifer Norton, Assistant Director, Legal and Democratic Services

08 September 2025



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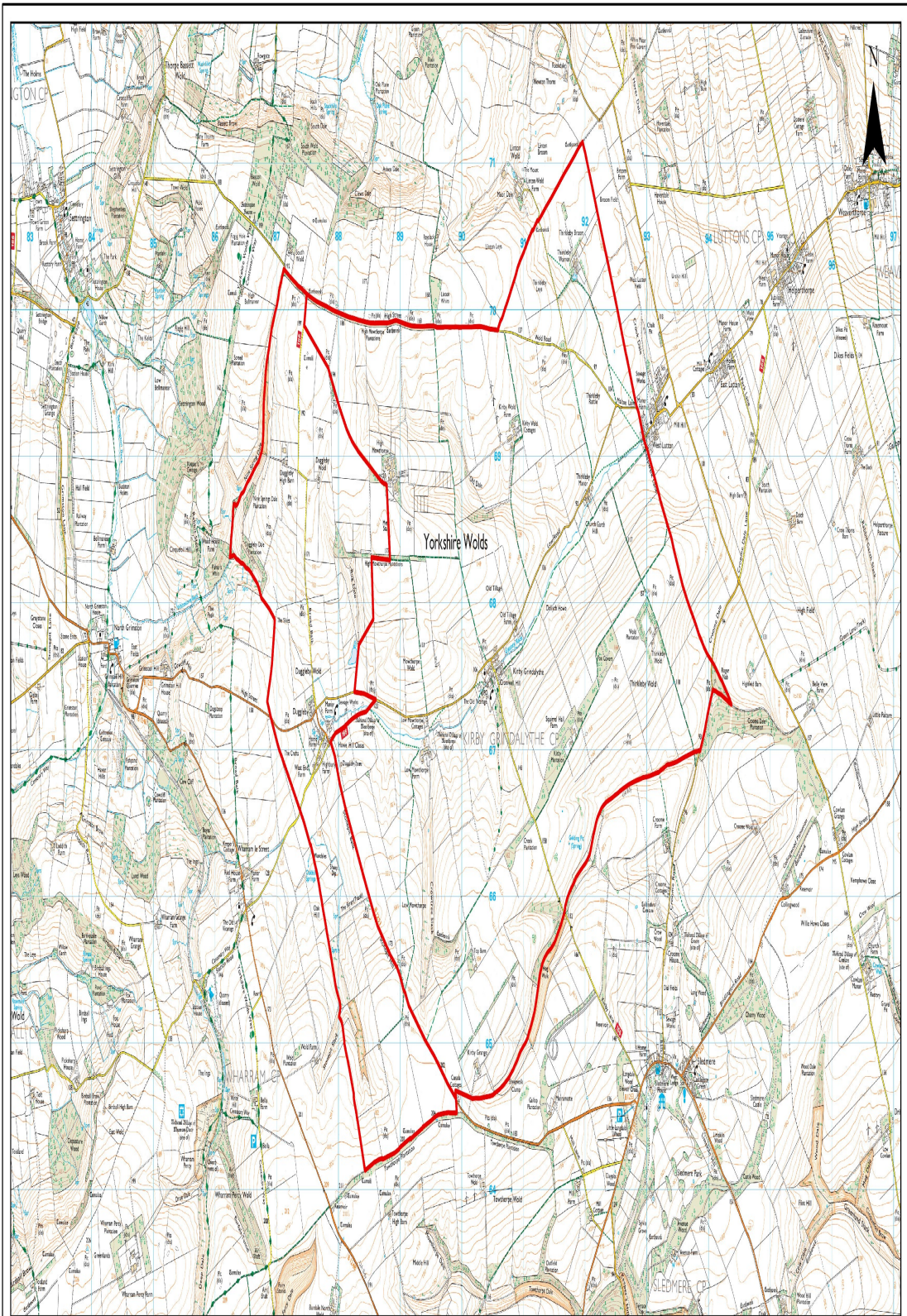


Kirkby Grindalythe Parish Boundary

Drawn by: ASG 27/08/2024

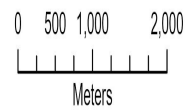


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Kirby Grindalythe Parish
Proposed Split

Drawn by: CD
Date: 28/03/25



Scale: 1:50,000

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NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNCIL

STANDARDS AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

17 September 2025

Temporary Appointments to Parish Councils
by Assistant Chief Executive Legal and Democratic Services and Monitoring
Officer under delegated powers

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To report back to Members, for information, details of temporary appointments to parish and town councils made by the Assistant Chief Executive Legal and Democratic Services and Monitoring Officer under his delegated powers.

2.0 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 In order for a town/parish council to operate, they need to be quorate. There are occasions where, due to resignations or a lack of nominations for vacancies at elections, a town/parish is not able to operate for this reason. If a town/parish is no longer quorate, it cannot meet or conduct any business. The only option left is to invoke the power to make an appointment so that business can continue.
- 2.2 Section 91(1) of the Local Government Act 1972 provides that the principal authority (North Yorkshire Council) can make an order to appoint to a town/parish council until such time as the vacancies on it have been filled by either election or co-option.
- 2.3 The Standards and Governance Committee has delegated power to make temporary appointments to parish and town councils under section 91 of the Local Government Act 1972.
- 2.4 On 6 September 2024, the Committee delegated the power to make such temporary appointments to the Assistant Chief Executive Legal and Democratic Services and Monitoring Officer, in order to streamline the process.

3.0 TEMPORARY APPOINTMENTS MADE UNDER DELEGATED POWERS

- 3.1 Since the last report to Committee on 20 June 2025, the Assistant Chief Executive Legal and Democratic Services and Monitoring Officer has made the following temporary appointments:

- a) appointment of Councillor Angus Thompson, divisional representative for North Richmondshire, to North Cowton Parish Council.

to allow the Parish Council to maintain quoracy in order to conduct business and co-opt additional members.

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 There are no significant financial implications arising from this report.

5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The legal implications are set out in the body of this report.

6.0 ENVIRONMENTAL/CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS

6.1 There are no significant environmental implications arising from this report.

7.0 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

7.1 There are no significant equalities implications arising from this report.

8.0 CONCLUSION

8.1 Members are requested to note this report.

8.2 Members will be kept informed future appointments.

9.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

9.1 That Members note this report.

BARRY KHAN

Assistant Chief Executive Legal and Democratic Services and Monitoring Officer

Background Documents:

None

County Hall
NORTHALLERTON

01 September 2025

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNCIL

STANDARDS AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

17 September 2025

Standards Bulletin

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To present to the Committee, for consideration, a draft Standards Bulletin.

2.0 BACKGROUND

2.1 The Standards Bulletin is produced periodically and circulated to Members and relevant Officers of the Council to keep them informed of key developments in the standards regime.

2.2 The production of the Standards Bulletin helps to maintain the Council's statutory duty to promote and maintain high standards of conduct.

3.0 THE STANDARDS BULLETIN

3.1 The latest draft edition of the Bulletin is attached at **Appendix 1** to this report.

3.2 The Committee is requested to consider the Bulletin with a view to its subsequent circulation to Members and Officers and publication on the Council's website.

3.3 The Bulletin is also circulated to YLCA and to parish and town councils in the North Yorkshire area and certain other authorities at their request.

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 There are no significant financial implications arising from this report.

5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 There are no significant legal implications arising from this report.

6.0 ENVIRONMENTAL/CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS

6.1 There are no significant environmental/climate change implications arising from this report.

7.0 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

7.1 There are no significant equalities implications arising from this report

8.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

8.1 That, subject to any comments Members may have, the Bulletin be approved for circulation.

BARRY KHAN
Assistant Chief Executive Legal and Democratic Services and Monitoring Officer

Background Documents: None

County Hall
NORTHALLERTON

1 September 2025

The Standards and Governance Committee

- Councillor Nick Brown
- Councillor Sam Cross
- Councillor Melanie Davis
- Councillor David Ireton
- Councillor Nigel Knapton
- Councillor Clive Pearson
- Councillor Heather Phillips
- Councillor Monika Slater
- Councillor Andy Solloway
- Councillor Peter Wilkinson

Independent Persons for Standards

- Ms Gill Baker
- Mrs Louise Holroyd
- Mr James Nelson
- Ms Richinda Taylor

Officers

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Introduction

This edition of the Standards Bulletin for North Yorkshire Council sets out the latest developments in the national standards regime, particularly in relation to the work by the Committee on Standards in Public Life and the Local Government Association.

Members will continue be kept informed of all ethical framework developments.

Should you wish to discuss any standards matter, please do not hesitate to contact the Monitoring Officer or any of his Team.

Councillor Clive Pearson

Chair of the Standards and Governance Committee

In this issue:

Standing guidance:

- Members' expenses
- Interests' regime
- Sensitive Interests
- Bias, Predetermination, Predisposition
- Members' Gifts and Hospitality
- Social media and the Members' Code of Conduct

Latest News:

- Update on Government consultation on strengthening the standards regime
- Establishment of Ethics and Integrity Commission
- CSPL Annual Report 2024-2025
- CSPL conference – 'The Nolan Principles at 30'
- LGA survey – Debate not Hate
- Action by Cheshire East Council to combat abuse of councillors
- NYC Member Liaison Group on Councillor Safety
- NYC standards complaint statistics
- Complaint statistics
- Cases

STANDING GUIDANCE FOR MEMBERS

Members' Expenses

Members are reminded to include sufficient details in their expense claims and to submit them in a timely manner to avoid submitting multiple claims at the same time where possible.

Members should have regard to the current **Scheme of Approved Duties** and the **Protocol on Members' Attendance at Conferences** published in Part 6 of the Constitution, published on the Council website at [Constitution | North Yorkshire Council](#)

Interests' Regime

Under the Council's Code of Conduct for Members ([Councillors' code of conduct | North Yorkshire Council](#)), the following interests' regime applies.

Registration of Interests

Members must register the following interests **within 28 days** of election/appointment:

- **Disclosable pecuniary interests** (DPIs) of the Member and their spouse/partner who they live with and
- **Other registrable interests** (ORIs) of the Member

and keep their interests under review, registering any changes within **28 days**.

A pecuniary interest is a **DPI** if it is of a description specified in regulations ie

- **Employment, office, trade, profession or vocation (for profit or gain)**
- **Sponsorship**
- **Contracts**
- **Land**
- **Licenses**
- **Corporate tenancies**
- **Securities**

(please see the Code for the detailed descriptions)

And either:

- (a) it is the Member's interest or
- (b) an interest of the Member's spouse or civil partner or a person with whom the Member is living with as such

and the Member is aware of the interest.

Members may request to have, for example, their home address treated as sensitive and not disclosed in the published Register of Interests or in their contact details on the Council website, if they feel this is necessary for their personal safety or that of someone connected to them.

Please see the later section in the Bulletin on Sensitive Interests and contact the Monitoring Officer to discuss any concerns in this regard.

Should Members have any immediate concerns around Member safety, please contact the Head of Democratic Services and Scrutiny to discuss.

Other Registrable interests (ORIs) are:

- 1. Unpaid directorships**
- 2. Any body of which you are a member or are in a position of general control or management and to which you are nominated or appointed by your authority**
- 3. Any body:**
 - i. exercising functions of a public nature**
 - ii. directed to charitable purposes or one of whose principal purposes includes the influence of public opinion or policy (including any political party or trade union/professional association)**
 - iii. of which you are a member or in a position of general control or management.**

The Register of Members' Interests is maintained by the Monitoring Officer and is generally available for public inspection during office hours at County Hall, Northallerton. It is

published on the Council's website (as required by the Localism Act 2011) - [Your Councillors | North Yorkshire Council](#)

Members must, within 28 days of becoming aware of a new interest or a change to an existing interest, register the necessary details electronically via the ModGov committee software system.

Participation re Interests

Disclosable Pecuniary Interests (DPIs)

A Member may not participate in the discussion of, or vote on, Council business *directly relating* to a DPI and must declare the existence and nature of the interest and withdraw from the meeting room at the start of the item (unless a dispensation is granted).

Other Registrable Interests (ORIs)

Where a matter arises at a meeting which *directly relates* to the financial interest or wellbeing of one of the Member's ORIs, then the Member must declare the existence and nature of the interest, can speak on the matter if the public can and then must withdraw from the meeting room (unless a dispensation is granted).

Non-Registrable Interests (NRIs)

These are interests which are not required to be registered in the Register of Members' Interests (ie interests other than DPIs and ORIs):-

- (i) which *directly relate* to the Member's financial interest or well-being, or that of a relative or close associate (of which the Member could reasonably be expected to be aware); or
- (ii) which *affect* the Member's financial interest or well-being or that of a relative or close associate or of a body included under Other Registrable Interests (of which the Member could reasonably be expected to be aware).

For NRIs falling under category (i) above, the Member must declare the existence and nature of the interest, can speak on the matter if the public can and then must withdraw from the

meeting room (unless a dispensation is granted).

For NRIs falling under category (ii) above, the Member must declare the existence and nature of the interest, and then consider the 'prejudicial interest' test to determine if and how they may participate:

- Where the matter affects the financial interest or wellbeing more than it affects that of the majority of inhabitants of the ward affected and a reasonable member of the public knowing all the facts would believe that it would affect the Member's view of the wider public interest, then the Member can speak if the public can, but must not take part in any discussion/vote and must leave room (unless a dispensation is granted);
- Where the matter does not so affect the financial interest or wellbeing, then the Member may speak and vote in usual way.

If a **dispensation** is granted to a Member, the Member must still **declare** the existence and nature of the interest and the fact they are relying on a dispensation to the meeting.

What is the difference between 'relates to' and 'affects'?

Something 'relates to' a Member's interest if it is directly about it, eg the matter being discussed is an application about a particular property in which the Member or somebody associated with them or an outside body they have registered has a financial interest.

'Affects' means the matter is not directly about that interest but nevertheless the matter has clear implications for the interest – for example, it is a planning application for a neighbouring property which will result in it overshadowing the Member's property. An interest can of course affect you, your family or close personal associates positively and negatively. So, if you or they have the potential to gain or lose from a matter under consideration, an interest would need to be declared in both situations.

Please note:

A Member commits a **criminal offence** if, without reasonable excuse, they —

- fail to:
 - ❖ register disclosable pecuniary interests
 - ❖ disclose an interest to a meeting where required
 - ❖ notify the Monitoring Officer of an interest disclosed to a meeting
- participate in any discussion or vote where prohibited
- an individual Member decision taker takes any steps in relation to a matter where prohibited

A Member also commits a **criminal offence** if, in relation to the registration/disclosure of disclosable pecuniary interests, they provide information that is false or misleading and —

- know that the information is false or misleading, or
- are reckless as to whether the information is true and not misleading.

A court may also disqualify the person, for a period not exceeding five years, for being or becoming (by election or otherwise) a member or co-opted member of the relevant authority in question or any other relevant authority.

Please therefore keep your interests form under review to ensure it is up to date.

Interests' issues are ultimately Members' responsibility.

NB: Even if something is not a Code issue, always bear in mind the rules relating to bias, predetermination and predisposition.

If you are in any doubt as to your position, please contact the Monitoring Officer or any of his team.

Sensitive Interests

You do not need to register or declare the details of an interest which you and the Monitoring Officer have agreed is sensitive.

A “sensitive interest” is any interest (whether or not a disclosable pecuniary interest) where **disclosure of the details could lead to you, or a person connected with you, being subject to violence or intimidation.**

The existence of an interest must still be registered/declared but not any detail in relation to it.

Should you feel that any of your interests are sensitive given any prevailing circumstances, please contact the Monitoring Officer immediately to discuss.

Bias, Predetermination, Predisposition

Members involved in making a decision on particular business must always bear in mind the rules relating to **bias and predetermination** and must not participate in, or seek to influence, Council business where their interests may prejudice, or appear to prejudice, their views.

Predetermination occurs *where a fair minded and well informed observer, looking objectively at all the circumstances, considers there is a real risk that a decision maker has refused to consider a relevant argument or would refuse.*

Possible examples of bias or predetermination are:

- connection with someone affected by a decision;
- improper involvement of someone with an interest in the outcome;
- prior involvement in a matter;
- commenting before a decision is made.

However, the Localism Act 2011 makes it clear that a Member is not to be taken to have had, or to have appeared to have had, a closed mind when making a decision just because they had previously done anything that directly or indirectly indicated what view they took, or would or might take, in relation to a matter; this would amount to **predisposition** to a view and is acceptable. This ensures that Members can freely discuss issues, including expressing a view and/or campaigning on an issue, and then later speak or vote on those issues.

Unless there is positive evidence of a closed mind, prior observations or apparent favouring of a particular decision is unlikely to suffice as predetermination.

Members are entitled to have and express their own views, as long as they are prepared to reconsider their position in the light of all the evidence and arguments. They must not give the impression that their mind is closed.

Members' Gifts and Hospitality

Members' gifts and hospitality are recorded with their Register of Interests, electronically via the ModGov committee software system.

Under the Council's Code of Conduct, you should not accept gifts/hospitality, of any value, which could create an impression of obligation upon you or the Council or substantive personal gain or propensity to show favour. You should inform the Monitoring Officer of any such offers.

Otherwise, you should register any gifts/hospitality received or offered worth **£25 or more**.

Should you have any queries in relation to the registration of any gifts or hospitality received/offered, then please feel free to contact the Monitoring Officer or any of his team.

Parish and town councillors should have regard to their own authority's Code of Conduct in terms of how any offers of gifts and hospitality should be dealt with.

Social media and the Members' Code of Conduct

Social media is an important means of communication and engagement, however the use of social media frequently features in many of the standards complaints received by the Monitoring Officer.

Aspects of the Members' Code of Conduct will apply to your online activity, as in other communications, if you are, or appear to be, acting in your capacity as a councillor, rather than a private individual. The same standards of

conduct apply online as would be expected offline.

The key issue is whether you are acting in your official capacity as a councillor when using your social media platforms. Be clear as to the capacity in which you are posting, official or private.

Use of the title "Councillor" may give rise to an inference that you are acting in your official capacity, when the Code can be engaged.

If you publish information you can only access as a Member, you are likely to be viewed as acting in your official capacity.

"...These are ordinary descriptive English words. Their application is inevitably fact sensitive and so whether or not a person is so acting inevitably calls for informed judgment by reference to the facts of a given case. This also means that there is the potential for two decision makers, both taking the correct approach, to reach different decisions..."

You may wish to set up different social media accounts for your private life and councillor role to maintain professional boundaries.

You are personally responsible for the content you publish on social media, in the same way that you are responsible for letters or emails you send. It is less formal but is still a form of communication and posts can be capable of being misunderstood - the immediacy of social media can magnify this problem.

Being misunderstood is likely to lead to rapid and wide broadcasting (particularly with something perceived as being more controversial than was intended) almost instantly.

Be approachable, polite and respectful in your language and tone. Irony and sarcasm are very difficult to convey in writing and therefore should be avoided, as should profanity.

North Yorkshire Council has a Social Media Policy available on the Council's Intranet, which Members may find helpful.

Members should ensure that they are familiar with the provisions and that they do not put the Council's systems and information at risk, or be

damaging to the reputation of the Council or the office of Member.

LATEST NEWS

Update on Government consultation on strengthening the standards regime

The Standards and Governance Committee has previously considered and responded to the Government consultation on strengthening the standards regime ([Strengthening the standards and conduct framework for local authorities in England - GOV.UK](#)) (and the associated LGA Questionnaire regarding the consultation), which closed on 26 February 2025

In June, the Chief Executive of the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman confirmed at a Lawyers in Local Government (LLG) conference that the Ombudsman would be open to running any national appeals body that was referenced in the Government consultation and was having discussions about this but stated that it would present challenges in terms of capacity and speed, as they would need to determine the substantive issue rather than just the process which had been followed. The Chief Executive also commented that there was "no sense ... that there's a decision made behind the scenes that they're going in any particular direction".

Members will be kept informed of developments.

Establishment of Ethics and Integrity Commission

On 21 July 2025, the Government announced the intended establishment of a new Ethics and Integrity Commission, to oversee the ethical standards of ministers and public officials and "drive up standards in public life", change the ministerial severance arrangements and the business appointment rules.

The Commission will also:

- advise Government on ethics in public life by conducting broad inquiries into topical issues;

- report annually to the Prime Minister on ethical standards in the public sector;
- engage regularly with public bodies to advise of ethical standards and the development of codes of conduct;
- convene other ethics and standards bodies from across government and Parliament to share best practice and raise concerns.

The aim is that the Commission will be established by strengthening and reforming the Committee on Standards in Public Life.

Further information is available in the published press release - [Ethics and Integrity Commission to drive up standards across the public sector - GOV.UK](#) and via the House of Commons Library Research Briefing - [Ethics and Integrity Commission - House of Commons Library](#)

CSPL Annual Report 2024-2025

On 23 June 2025, the CSPL published its Annual Report for 2024-2025 - [Committee on Standards in Public Life Annual Report 2024 – 2025 - GOV.UK](#).

The Report reflects on the work of the CSPL during the year, promoting high standards of conduct in public life and marking the 30th anniversary of the Nolan Principles. The CSPL's work is reported to the Standards and Governance Committee in each standing report re Local Ethical Framework Developments and highlighted in each Standards Bulletin.

CSPL conference –‘The Nolan Principles at 30’

The CSPL continues to mark the 30th anniversary of the Nolan Principles (general principles of conduct) and held a conference in June on ‘the Nolan Principles at 30’, to discuss the importance of maintaining high standards of conduct in public life.

The CSPL has published a blog regarding the conference - [The Nolan Principles at 30 – Committee on Standards in Public Life](#)

The key themes discussed during the conference appear to be:

- the fragile state of public trust in politics
- the complexity of public sector decision-making
- the wider societal changes that pose major challenges to institutions
- that high standards can act as an enabler, helping demonstrate that the way in which decisions, however unpopular, are made in the public interest
- the importance of building wider, cross-party agreement on standards
- that weaponisation of the standards system for political gain is damaging
- the importance of the need for high standards of conduct and its continued regular discussion
- regulatory bodies must be independent, able to scrutinise and adjudicate without fear or favour
- where necessary there must be a range of sanctions for failures and breaches
- regulation must be proportionate and fair
- the Nolan Principles have stood the test of time and remain very relevant.
- of those reporting abuse in responding:
 - 11% had had private information made public,
 - 64% had experienced abuse online;
 - 59% had experienced in-person abuse;
 - 8% had a member of the public attend their home in an intimidating or inappropriate matter
 - 1 in 20 reported being stalked by a member of the public;
 - 1 in 20 reported property damage;
 - 3% reported actual violence as part of their councillor role
- councillors are more likely to experience abuse than others based on protected characteristics;
- In addition to being more likely to report experiencing abuse, risk and criminality, women and disabled councillors were more likely to cite abuse and intimidation as a factor in their decision not to run for election again.

LGA survey – Debate not Hate

The Local Government Association has undertaken a survey of councillors as part of its Debate not Hate campaign – [More than half of councillors report being victims of misinformation, while rates of abuse and threats remain high across local government, LGA survey finds | Local Government Association](#)

The LGA notes the following regarding the survey results:

- 52% of councillors have reported having untrue or misleading information about their political or personal conduct publicly published;
- the rate of reported abuse, intimidation and threats continues to be high, with seven in 10 councillors reporting experiencing issues in the last 12 months;
- one-quarter of respondents said that they or someone closely connected to them had experienced a threat of violence or death and 21% of these had reported an incident to the police (compared to 23% last year);

Action by Cheshire East Council to combat abuse of councillors

Cheshire East Council has recently issued a media release outlining the steps it is taking to combat “appalling” abuse, intimidation and harassment of, and support to, councillors - [07/08/2025 - Cheshire East takes steps to combat appalling abuse of councillors](#)

Examples of the abuse include death threats, excrement posted through letterboxes, stalking, trolling and obscene phone calls. Over a third of the councillors had considered stepping down as a result.

The recommended measures include:

- the introduction of a formal reporting process,
- the appointment of a nominated officer for councillor safety,
- the development of a comprehensive councillor safety protocol
- the provision of lone-working devices
- targeted training around conflict prevention and wellbeing
- the creation of a member champion for councillor safety, as an advocate to ensure these issues remain prioritised

- the authority “reaffirm its commitment” to the Local Government Association’s Debate not Hate public statement, to help support and encourage civility in public life
- councillors having a named Police officer contact for raising concerns.

NYC Member Liaison Group on Councillor Safety

North Yorkshire Council takes Member safety seriously. The Council’s cross party Member Liaison Group on Councillor Safety was established in May 2024 and has met six times to date, next due to meet on 25 September 2025. It is supported by the Assistant Chief Executive Legal and Democratic Services & Monitoring Officer and the Head of Democratic Services and Scrutiny and is also attended by the Head of Health and Safety and two North Yorkshire Police Officers.

The Group has undertaken a number of practical steps to promote Member safety, including:

- Consideration of the Local Government Association’s ‘Debate Not Hate’ campaign and supporting toolkit action points and work undertaken by other authorities to promote councillor safety, to provide a framework against which progress locally can be assessed;
- An all-councillor survey on member safety completed and the results analysed and responded to in November/December 2024;
- A system for the reporting, collation and analysis of incidences where councillors have felt or been threatened or intimidated during the course of their duties has been in place since March 2025;
- The roll out of the PeopleSafe App to all councillors as of 31 March 2025. This is currently used by frontline council staff and enables access to a range of support (check-ins, alarms, times alerts) when visiting somewhere for the first time or where there are concerns;
- The roll out of councillor access to the Staff Warning Register, via Democratic Services, which enables addresses to be checked for any flagged concerns

- Developing strong relationships with the Police to enhance coordination and foster mutual understanding of abuse affecting councillors and the role of the Police in addressing it, including the establishment of a named Police officer contact as Elected Officials Advisor, who is available to speak with and support councillors who have concerns regarding their safety;
- Councillors concerned about their physical safety can apply for funding for practical measures to increase security at their homes;
- Councillor addresses and phone numbers can be removed from the Council website where there are concerns around safety;
- Councillor access to wellbeing services can be enabled upon request;
- Training and awareness raising on a range of issues is periodically undertaken through the Member seminars and briefings

The Group has identified further areas for consideration, including:

- An annual all-councillor survey;
- The establishment of a wellbeing or councillor safety champion;
- A review of relevant policies on safety matters that are currently in place to see whether they apply to councillors as well as officers;
- Training and/or briefings for councillors on the following: personal safety and risk assessment; social media training and digital citizenship; and conflict de-escalation;
- Provision of mentor support for councillors, made available following an incident, and how this would be done;
- A review of the current level of support that is available to councillors through the employee wellbeing services

NYC STANDARDS COMPLAINT STATISTICS

The Standards and Governance Committee monitors complaints raised with the Monitoring Officer under the standards regime.

As well as considering complaints that a member of North Yorkshire Council may have breached the Members' Code of Conduct, North Yorkshire Council is the principal authority for parish and town councils in North Yorkshire for the purposes of the standards provisions in the Localism Act 2011.

It is therefore also responsible for receiving and handling complaints that a parish/town councillor may have breached that authority's code of conduct for Members.

That is the extent of North Yorkshire Council's jurisdiction in respect of parish/town council governance; parish/town councils are separate legal entities and North Yorkshire Council has no jurisdiction to consider other complaints for example about the way in which the parish council has or has not done something, or about particular parish council decisions.

Context for complaints

There are currently:

- 729 Individual Parishes
- 412 Parish and Town Councils, including Harrogate and Scarborough
- 160 Parish Meetings; and
- 90 NYC councillors.

In terms of the national context:

- NYC has the largest number of parish and town councils of any local authority in the country;
- The next nearest council has 327
- 51% have less than 30
- 97.5% of councils have less than 200
- There are only 6 councils with over 200 parish councils
- Only 2 councils have over 300 parish councils

Complaints received

During the period 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024, the Council received 174 complaints that

members may have breached the relevant authority's code of conduct for Members.

During the period 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025, 133 complaints were received.

A full breakdown of the complaint statistics for each municipal period is published on the Council's website at the bottom of the Councillors' Code of Conduct webpage - [Councillors' code of conduct | North Yorkshire Council](#)

For the period 1 April 2025 to 29 August 2025, **39** complaints have been received.

Pre-assessments and Assessments in current year

Of the 39 complaints received in this current year:

- a) 20 complaints have been disposed of by the Monitoring Officer/Deputy Monitoring Officer at pre-assessment stage. These included:
 - 1 against an NYC Councillor where there was no evidence presented that the councillor was acting in their official capacity at the relevant times;
 - 14 against councillors and clerks of two parish councils which did not progress to an assessment as they were deemed to be outside the Monitoring Officer's jurisdiction as they related to matters of internal parish council governance and parish council employees.
 - 1 against a parish councillor where there was no evidence presented that the councillor was acting in their official capacity at the relevant times;
 - 1 which was mistakenly sent to the NYC Monitoring Officer when it related to another council.
 - 1 which was a second anonymous complaint against an NYC Councillor – the first related complaint had been assessed and no further action was required.
 - 1 against an NYC Councillor where there was no evidence of a breach of the Code

but in any event the subject member had already apologised to the complainant.

- 1 against a town councillor where there was no evidence that comments on social media were posted whilst the councillor was acting in their official capacity

b) 14 complaints have progressed to assessment by the Monitoring Officer/Deputy Monitoring Officer in consultation with the Independent Persons for Standards. Of those assessed complaints:

i. 11 complaints did not merit referral for formal investigation, for example:

- a parish councillor's failure to declare an interest, which had been addressed by them;
- allegations of a parish councillor bullying and harassing the clerk where insufficient evidence was provided of a potential breach of the relevant code of conduct;
- two concerned different NYC Councillors, one relating to levels of engagement with a parish council, and the other regarding alleged disrespect, whereby in both cases there was insufficient evidence presented of a potential breach of the Code of Conduct;
- two concerned the same NYC Councillor from the same member of the public - in both cases there was insufficient evidence presented of a potential breach of the Code of Conduct;
- an anonymous complaint regarding an NYC Councillor alleging illegal activity which was not evidenced.

ii. 1 complaint was recommended for informal resolution;

iii. 2 complaints were referred for investigation.

c) 5 further complaints will have been assessed by the time of this meeting.

Investigation outcomes

Since the last Standards Bulletin, 1 complaint investigation regarding a Town Councillor has been concluded. The Investigating Officer found **no evidence of breach** of the code. The report and recommendations were accepted by the Monitoring Officer and Independent Person as sufficient. No further action was required.

Determinations

Since the last Standards Bulletin, there have been no further meetings of the Standards and Governance Committee Hearings Panel.

A detailed Complaints Update report is taken to each ordinary meeting of the Standards and Governance Committee, giving an update on complaints received and their progress. The Committee's agenda and papers are published here - [Browse meetings - Standards and Governance Committee | North Yorkshire Council](#)

Members will be kept informed of statistical information in relation to standards complaints received.

NATIONAL CASES

The Local Government Lawyer website recently reported on the following cases:

- A council referred a former councillor to the Police, after finding they had breached the Code of Conduct, regarding a failure to declare a disclosable pecuniary interest, for which the councillor had apologised. At the time of referral, the subject member was no longer a councillor and no action could be taken other than referral to the Police. The subject member did not declare an interest when approving a grant from the council to an organisation with which the subject member had accepted a new job days before. The Police subsequently confirmed no action would be taken.
- It has been found that the Mayor of London did not breach the Code of Conduct in accepting Taylor Swift concert tickets and no further action is to be taken.

- It was alleged that "It was unclear what level of caution, if any, the Mayor applied when accepting the gifted tickets, given that the company which provided the tickets has live contracts' with the GLA to organise public events, contrary to paragraph 11.1 of the Gifts and Hospitality Policy..." The investigator concluded that the Mayor "did exercise an appropriate degree of caution in accepting the offer of tickets" and therefore did not breach the Code. The investigator accepted that it was a major cultural and economic event for London and therefore appropriate in principle for the Mayor to attend and that the most sensitive elements of a relevant procurement exercise had concluded by the time of allocation of the tickets.
- A councillor was found to have breached the Code by falsely claiming, during a public speech and in a meeting, to have served as a Royal Marine, when in reality he had not completed the training or passed out. The investigator concluded that there had been a breach of Code provisions regarding respect, using his position improperly, bringing his office and authority into disrepute and failure to

co-operate with the investigation. The sanction was for the councillor to apologise and be removed from a council panel.

- A Mayor of a council was found to have breached the Code provisions regarding using his position improperly, bringing his office or authority into disrepute and use of resources, after using his position to support visa applications for friends and family. He was sanctioned to apologise, not wear a badge denoting he had been Mayor and not use his position to support any further visa applications.

Resources

Localism Act 2011 and subordinate legislation.

www.gov.uk/government/organisations/the-committee-on-standards-in-public-life

Information published on www.gov.uk and www.london.gov.uk

Local Government Lawyer website

BBC news website

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NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNCIL

STANDARDS AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

17 September 2025

Standards Training Plan for Members

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To present to Members, for review, the Standards Training Plan for Members for 2025/2026.

2.0 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 A report is brought to each ordinary meeting of the Committee for it to consider the standards training needs of Members of the Council and how best to meet them through the Standards Training Plan.

3.0 STANDARDS TRAINING PLAN

- 3.1 The current Standards Training Plan is attached at **Appendix 1** for Members' consideration and discussion.

- 3.2 The Training Plan is split into separate sections for:

- The Standards and Governance Committee
- Independent Persons for Standards;
- Members of North Yorkshire Council; and
- Parish and Town Councils.

with identified training needs set out, an indicative timescale for completion and bulleted entries of any such training undertaken in the time period.

- 3.3 Members are requested to consider the standards training needs across the authority and review the Standards Training Plan for 2025/26.

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 There are no significant financial implications arising from this report.

5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There are no significant legal implications arising from this report.

6.0 ENVIRONMENTAL/CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 There are no significant environmental implications arising from this report.

7.0 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 There are no significant equalities implications arising from this report.

8.0 CONCLUSION

- 8.1 Members are requested to consider the standards training needs across the authority and review the Standards Training Plan in terms of those needs being met.
- 8.2 Members will be kept informed of progress in relation to standards training.

9.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 9.1 That Members consider the Standards Training Plan for Members for 2025/2026 and determine whether any amendments are required.

BARRY KHAN
Assistant Chief Executive Legal and Democratic Services and Monitoring Officer

Background Documents:
None

County Hall
NORTHALLERTON

1 September 2025

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNCIL
STANDARDS AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

Standards Training Plan for Members – 2025/2026

TRAINING	DATE
Standards and Governance Committee	
Training required:	
i. Training on any new Code of Conduct and standards regime, once the outcome of the Government consultation on strengthening the standards regime is known and any new regime is implemented by NYC.	Possibly Autumn 2025 or as soon as possible after any new regime implemented
ii. Standing guidance on key issues of code and standards regime in each edition of Standards Bulletin.	Twice per year <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • March 2025 • September 2025
iii. Refresher training as the Committee may request.	Periodic
iv. Refresher training to Hearings Panel regarding Hearings Panel procedures in advance of each Hearing.	As required and before each Hearings Panel hearing.
Independent Persons for Standards	
Training required:	
i. Independent Persons to be invited to all Standards and Governance Committee training.	See above section.
ii. External training as appropriate and as opportunities are presented.	Periodic <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 20 May 2025 – LLG course: Independent Persons: The Role of the IP in Ensuring High Standards of Conduct • 21 May 2025 - Virtual Independent Persons' Workshop
iii. Annual catch-up meeting for IPs – organised and hosted by Monitoring Officer and training provided re reviewing the previous year, complaint statistics and themes, the role of the IP, assessments, investigations and hearings.	28 November 2025
iv. Introductory training by Monitoring Officer to any new Independent Person for Standards, should there be a need to recruit to the current vacancy.	As may be required.
North Yorkshire Council Members	
Training required:	

i. Refresher training to NYC Members on Members' Code of Conduct through a Members' seminar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training undertaken on 5 March 2025
ii. Full Code of Conduct training for any newly elected NYC councillors	As required
iii. Standing guidance on key issues of code and standards regime in each edition of Standards Bulletin.	<p>Twice per year</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • March 2025 • September 2025
iv. Training on any new Code of Conduct and standards regime, once the outcome of the Government consultation on strengthening the standards regime is known and any new regime is implemented by NYC.	Possibly Autumn 2025 or as soon as possible after any new regime implemented
v. Monitoring Officer to produce a recorded training session on standards for Members to access at any time, once the outcome of the Government consultation on strengthening the standards regime is known and any new regime is implemented by NYC.	Possibly Autumn 2025 or as soon as possible after any new regime implemented
Parish and Town Councils	
Training required:	
i. Standards training to new Scarborough and Harrogate Town Councillors	<p>May 2025</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9 May 2025 – online training • 15 May 2025 – in person training at Harrogate Civic Centre.
ii. Previous online training session (13 September 2024) by Deputy Monitoring Officer and Senior Governance Lawyer to North Yorkshire parish and town councils (West Team) re Code of Conduct and standards regime was recorded and is now published and available for parish and town councils to access.	Please contact Democratic Services for the hyperlink.
iii. Standing guidance on key issues of code and standards regime in each edition of Standards Bulletin. Standards Bulletins are circulated to parish and town councils in North Yorkshire.	<p>Twice per year</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • March 2025 • September 2025
iv. Update the recorded training session once the outcome of the Government consultation on strengthening the standards regime is known and any new regime is implemented by NYC.	Possibly Autumn 2025 or as soon as possible after any new regime implemented

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNCIL

STANDARDS AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

17 September 2025

Standards and Governance Committee Work Programme 2025/26

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To present to the Committee, for consideration and review, its forward Work Programme for 2025/2026.

2.0 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Committee previously agreed it would be helpful for the Committee to implement a forward Work Programme of its work, as far as this can be anticipated.
- 2.2 The Programme is a standing item on each scheduled ordinary meeting of the Committee and keeps track of matters that the Committee wishes to consider/review.

3.0 WORK PROGRAMME

- 3.1 A revised Work Programme to aid Members' consideration is attached at **Appendix 1** to this report.
- 3.2 Changes made since the last Committee meeting:
- Deferring the item 'Protocol re Councillors' Use of Resources' to the next meeting;
 - Updating items for the Committee's meetings on 17 September 2025 and 13 March 2026;
 - Including items regarding the 'Community Governance Review' and a consequential report regarding 'Dispensation requests re Community Governance Review' for the Committee's meeting on 13 March 2025. The timing of these items may need to change depending on the publication of the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) recommendations;
 - Updating the 'Matters to note' section, to:
 - ❖ Include the specific delegations made by the Committee to the Assistant Chief Executive Legal and Democratic Services at its meeting on 20 June 2025 regarding the Community Governance Review;
 - ❖ Reference the resignation of Hilary Gilbertson MBE as an Independent Person.
- 3.3 Members are requested to review the Work Programme and determine whether they would wish to make any changes or include any other items.

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report.

5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 There are no legal implications arising from this report.

6.0 ENVIRONMENTAL/CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS

6.1 There are no environmental/climate change implications arising from this report.

7.0 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

7.1 There are no equalities implications arising from this report

8.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

8.1 That Members consider and review its Work Programme at **Appendix 1**.

BARRY KHAN
Assistant Chief Executive Legal and Democratic Services and Monitoring Officer

Background Documents:

Standards and Governance Committee minutes

County Hall
NORTHALLERTON

28 August 2025

WORK PROGRAMME FOR STANDARDS AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE – 2025/26

* standing items for each scheduled ordinary meeting of the Committee

MEETING	AGENDA ITEM	REPORT REQUIRED	PROGRESS
14 March 2025 Chief Executive Officer attending meeting- [Deferred to September].	* Local Ethical Framework Developments	Standing report by Monitoring Officer regarding latest developments in national ethical framework.	Report presented to meeting.
	* Complaints Update	Standing report by Monitoring Officer in relation to complaints received of a potential breach of the relevant Members' Code of Conduct by Members and voting co-opted Members of North Yorkshire Council and town and parish councils in North Yorkshire.	Report presented to meeting.
	* Standards Bulletin	Standing report by Monitoring Officer presenting draft Standards Bulletin for approval for circulation.	Report presented to meeting.
	* Work Programme for 2025/26	Report by Monitoring Officer setting out suggested draft programme of work for 2025/2026 for Members' consideration.	Report presented to meeting.
	* Standards Training Plan 2025/26	Standing report by Monitoring Officer in relation to standards training required for Members.	Report presented to meeting.
	Annual Report of the Standards and Governance Committee 2024/25	Report by Monitoring Officer presenting a draft Annual Report for 2024/25 for Members' consideration and approval. To be presented to meeting of Council on 21 May 2025.	Report presented to meeting.
	Dispensation Request	Report by Monitoring Officer regarding dispensation request from Councillor Peacock.	Report presented to meeting.

MEETING	AGENDA ITEM	REPORT REQUIRED	PROGRESS
20 June 2025	* Local Ethical Framework Developments	Standing report by Monitoring Officer regarding latest developments in national ethical framework.	Report presented to meeting.
	* Complaints Update	Standing report by Monitoring Officer in relation to complaints received of a potential breach of the relevant Members' Code of Conduct by Members and voting co-opted Members of North Yorkshire Council and town and parish councils in North Yorkshire.	Report presented to meeting.
	* Standards Bulletin	Standing report by Monitoring Officer presenting draft Standards Bulletin for approval for circulation.	Report presented to meeting.
	* Work Programme	Standing report by Monitoring Officer regarding the programme of work for 2025/26 for Members' review.	Report presented to meeting.
	* Standards Training Plan	Standing report by Monitoring Officer in relation to standards training required for Members.	Report presented to meeting.
	Members' Attendance at Committees	Periodic report from Head of Democratic Services and Scrutiny. The report should record the number of attendance of Councillors at meetings of the Council and its Committees for the period 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025.	Report presented to meeting.
	Temporary Appointment to Parish Council by the Assistant Chief Executive Legal and Democratic Services and Monitoring Officer.	An update report from the Assistant Chief Executive Legal and Democratic Services and Monitoring Officer regarding a temporary appointment to a parish council, made under delegated powers.	Report presented to meeting.
	Community Governance Review	A report from the Deputy Monitoring Officer proposing a community governance review for a defined number of parish areas as set out in the draft Terms of Reference.	Report presented to meeting.

MEETING	AGENDA ITEM	REPORT REQUIRED	PROGRESS
17 September 2025 Chief Executive Officer attending meeting.	* Local Ethical Framework Developments	Standing report by Monitoring Officer regarding latest developments in national ethical framework.	Report to be presented to meeting.
	* Complaints Update	Standing report by Monitoring Officer in relation to complaints received of a potential breach of the relevant Members' Code of Conduct by Members and voting co-opted Members of North Yorkshire Council and town and parish councils in North Yorkshire.	Report to be presented to meeting.
	* Standards Bulletin	Standing report by Monitoring Officer presenting draft Standards Bulletin for approval for circulation.	Report to be presented to meeting.
	* Work Programme	Standing report by Monitoring Officer regarding the programme of work for 2025/26 for Members' review.	Report to be presented to meeting.
	* Standards Training Plan	Standing report by Monitoring Officer in relation to standards training required for Members.	Report to be presented to meeting.
	Protocol re Councillors' Use of Resources	Report by Monitoring Officer presenting a draft Protocol re Councillors' Use of Resources, to assist Members.	<i>Deferred to next meeting.</i>
	Temporary Appointment to Parish Council by the Assistant Chief Executive Legal and Democratic Services and Monitoring Officer.	An update report from the Assistant Chief Executive Legal and Democratic Services and Monitoring Officer regarding a temporary appointment to a parish council, made under delegated powers.	Report to be presented to meeting.
	Community Governance Review - Kirby Grindalythe and Duggleby Parish Council	An update report from the Assistant Chief Executive Legal and Democratic Services proposing final recommendations to be made to full Council.	Report to be presented to meeting.
13 March 2026 Leader of Council attending meeting.	* Local Ethical Framework Developments	Standing report by Monitoring Officer regarding latest developments in national ethical framework.	Report to be presented to meeting.
	* Complaints Update	Standing report by Monitoring Officer in relation to complaints received of a potential breach of the relevant Members' Code of Conduct by Members and voting co-	Report to be presented to meeting.

MEETING	AGENDA ITEM	REPORT REQUIRED	PROGRESS
		opted Members of North Yorkshire Council and town and parish councils in North Yorkshire.	
	* Standards Bulletin	Standing report by Monitoring Officer presenting draft Standards Bulletin for approval for circulation.	Report to be presented to meeting.
	* Work Programme for 2026/27	Standing report by Monitoring Officer regarding the programme of work for 2026/27 for Members' review.	Report to be presented to meeting.
	* Standards Training Plan 2026/27	Standing report by Monitoring Officer in relation to standards training required for Members.	Report to be presented to meeting.
	Annual Report of the Standards and Governance Committee 2025/26	Report by Monitoring Officer presenting a draft Annual Report for Members' consideration and approval. To be presented to meeting of full Council in May 2026.	Report to be presented to meeting.
	Protocol re Councillors' Use of Resources	Report by Monitoring Officer presenting a draft Protocol re Councillors' Use of Resources, to assist Members.	Report to be presented to meeting.
	Community Governance Review	An update report from the Deputy Monitoring Officer re proposed community governance review for a defined number of parish areas as set out in the Terms of Reference.	Report to presented to meeting.
	Dispensation requests re Community Governance Review	Report by Monitoring Officer presenting dispensations requests from dual-hatted Members.	Report to be presented to meeting.

Matters to note

- **Leader and Chief Executive Officer to periodically attend the Committee.**
- **Independent Persons' terms of office**
 - At its meeting on 19 July 2023, full Council agreed to extend, for four years, the terms of office of the predecessor authority NYCC's two Independent Persons for Standards, Hilary Gilbertson MBE (resigned with effect from 27 August 2025), and Louise Holroyd (whose terms of office automatically continued post Vesting Day); and further approved the appointments, for four years, of Gillian Baker, Roy Martin (resigned with effect from 31 December 2024), James Nelson and Richinda Taylor as additional Independent Persons for Standards for North Yorkshire Council.
 - Full Council also delegated power to the Monitoring Officer to extend the Independent Persons' terms of office, in consultation with the Chair of the Standards and Governance Committee.
- **Protocol re Requests for Community Governance Reviews**
 - 15.9.23 – the Committee agreed the Protocol covering the period up to the scheduled May 2027 elections, setting out how the Council will respond to such requests. The Committee also granted authority to the Assistant Chief Executive Legal and Democratic Services, in consultation with the Executive Member for Corporate Services, to determine if requests for Community Governance Reviews should be treated as urgent and brought forward to the Standards and Governance Committee to recommend approval of terms of reference to the Council.
- **Community Governance Review**
 - 20.6.25 – Committee delegated the following powers to ACELDS:
 - ❖ That if the LGBCE final recommendations have an impact on the terms of reference the Assistant Chief Executive Legal and Democratic Services be delegated authority to amend the terms of reference accordingly;
 - ❖ That if further requests for a CGR from other parish areas come forward authority be delegated to the Assistant Chief Executive Legal and Democratic Services to consider whether the request should be incorporated in this CGR and the terms of reference amended accordingly.
- **Schedule of Election Fees for Elections and By-elections in North Yorkshire**
 - 13.12.23 - The Committee agreed that the fee Schedule be amended in line with amendments made to the national indicative fee schedule in future years.

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