

Report to: Governance, General Purposes & LGR Committee – 18 June 2026

Lead Officer: Francesca Whyley, Monitoring Officer

Report Summary	
Report Title	<p>Update on Code of Conduct Complaints</p> <p><i>The exempt Appendix 3 to this report contains exempt information as defined under Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, paragraph 1 which the Committee has the power to exclude the press and public if it so wishes.</i></p> <p><i>It is considered that the need to treat the information in Appendix 3 as exempt outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.</i></p>
Purpose of Report	To update Members on the current position in relation to Code of Conduct complaints
Recommendations	That the Governance, General Purposes & LGR Committee note the contents of the report
Reason for Recommendations	To keep Committee updated as to the volume, nature and outcome of Code of Conduct complaints

1.0 Background

- 1.1 In February 2026, Committee agreed to some changes to the Council's arrangements for dealing with Code of Conduct complaints. One of the changes to the arrangements was that the outcome of code complaints, where there are potential breaches of the Code of Conduct identified at the initial assessment stage would be reported to Committee.
- 1.2 In April 2026 Committee received the first complaints update report and provided feedback on the format of the report. A request was made that officers who make complaints are distinguished from other members of the public. In some instances, this may be possible but not where the reference to an officer would reveal personal data, for example a small parish may have only one officer, in which case they would be identifiable. A request was also made for the nature of the breach to be reflected in the spreadsheets.
- 1.3 At the April meeting, the report reflected that there were 20 ongoing Code of Conduct complaints at the time of publication, in fact there were 21 as one complaint should have been recorded as two separate complaints made on the same day. Since the April meeting there have been 12 new complaints submitted. Since the April meeting, 6 complaints have concluded leaving a total of 27 outstanding complaints at the time of publishing.

1.4 **Appendix 1** sets out a list of the current ongoing complaints and **Appendix 2** provides information on the complaints concluded since the April Committee meeting. **Appendix 3** provides a summary of matters concluded where no breach was found and is exempt. AT the previous meeting two complaints had been completed with a recommendation for informal resolution at the initial assessment stage. It was hoped that the resolution could be resolved and an update provided to this Committee. At the time of publishing the informal resolution has not been finalised on either matter.

2.0 Proposal/Options Considered

2.1 It is proposed that Members note the current position with regard to volume and outcomes of complaints.

2.2 If there is any further information Members would wish to see in the update reports this can be provided going forward.

3.0 Implications

In writing this report and in putting forward recommendations, officers have considered the following implications: Data Protection; Digital & Cyber Security; Equality & Diversity; Financial; Human Resources; Human Rights; Legal; Safeguarding & Sustainability and where appropriate they have made reference to these implications and added suitable expert comment where appropriate.

Implications Considered			
Yes – relevant and included / NA – not applicable			
Financial	NA	Equality & Diversity	Yes
Human Resources	NA	Human Rights	NA
Legal	Yes	Data Protection	NA
Digital & Cyber Security	NA	Safeguarding	NA
Sustainability	NA	Crime & Disorder	NA
LGR	NA	Tenant Consultation	NA

Legal and HR Implications

3.1 The Localism Act 2011 requires appropriate arrangements to be in place for the handling of Code of Conduct complaints. The Act also places responsibility for the consideration of complaints against parish councillors with the Monitoring officer of Newark & Sherwood District Council.

Financial implications

3.2 There are no direct financial implications arising from the presentation of this report. There are, however, costs associated with the handling of complaints where they cannot be managed internally.

Background Papers and Published Documents

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

None