

<b>MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL</b>	
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<b>Report of:</b>	Corporate Director of Legal and Corporate Services - Charlotte Benjamin
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<b>Relevant Executive Member:</b>	Mayor Chris Cooke
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<b>Submitted to:</b>	Standards Committee
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<b>Date:</b>	29 June 2026
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<b>Title:</b>	Quarterly Update Report to Standards Committee
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<b>Report for:</b>	Information
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<b>Status:</b>	Public
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<b>Council Plan priority:</b>	Delivering Best Value
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<b>Key decision:</b>	Not applicable
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<b>Why:</b>	Report is for information only
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<b>Subject to call in?</b>	Not applicable
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<b>Why:</b>	This report is for information to the Standards Committee
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<b>Proposed decision(s)</b>
<p>That the Standards Committee</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Notes the content of this report.</li> </ul>

<b>Executive summary</b>
<p>This report provides a quarterly update to the Standards Committee regarding the current position concerning Code of Conduct Complaints, and to identify any trends or patterns in the type of complaints being received.</p>

**1. Purpose of this report and its contribution to the achievement of the Council Plan ambitions**

- 1.1 To provide information by way of a quarterly update to the Standards Committee regarding the previous years and the current position concerning Code of Conduct Complaints.
- 1.2 In addition, that the Committee considers the information to discuss possible areas of member development and improvements.

<b>Our ambitions</b>	<b>Summary of how this report will support delivery of these ambitions and the underpinning aims</b>
<b>A successful and ambitious town</b>	<p>This report supports all the ambitions as Councillors represent local residents, work to develop better services, and deliver local change.</p> <p>The public have high expectations of them and entrust them to represent their local area, taking decisions fairly, openly, and transparently. There is an individual and collective responsibility to meet these expectations by maintaining high standards and demonstrating good conduct, and by challenging behaviour which falls below expectations.</p> <p>This report provides the Standards Committee with the information providing the current position to create and maintain public confidence in the role of councillor and local government.</p> <p>Maintaining that confidence will support the delivery of all of the ambitions and the underpinning aims.</p>
<b>A healthy Place</b>	
<b>Safe and resilient communities</b>	
<b>Delivering best value</b>	

**2. Recommendations**

- 2.1 That the Standards Committee
  - Notes the content of this report.

**3. Rationale for the recommended decision(s)**

- 3.1 Not applicable as report is for information only.

**4. Background and relevant information**

- 4.1 This report is provided to committee members to give an overview of the current, and recent position with regards to the Code of Conduct complaints received.

Year (Jan-Dec)	Total	Member on Member	Other non Member (i.e. member of public / officer)	ONGOING	No. withdrawn/ discontinued due to not re-elected	CONCLUDED				
						No. rejected	No. resolved informally	Accepted – No further action	No. to investigation	No. to standards Committee after investigation
2021	33	13	20	0	7	5	19	0	2	1
2022	12	3	9	0	4	4	2	0	2	2
2023	59	10	49	0	9	30	14	0	6	0
2024	21	7	14	0	0	8	13	0	0	0
2025	37	16	21	3	2	17	10	5	0	0
2026*	9	2	7	3	0	3	3	0	0	0

\* as at 04.06.26

4.2 The shaded columns show the breakdown of the ongoing and complaints outcomes and will add up to the total number for the year.

4.3 The outstanding complaints as at 4<sup>th</sup> June 2026 are as follows:

Year	Total Number Received	Total Number Ongoing	Number of Cllrs	Number currently 'stayed'
2025	37	3	2	0
2026	9	3	3	0
TOTALS	46	6	5	0

4.4 For clarification, the information shows each separate complaint. In some cases, we may receive a number of complaints in regard to the same incident which can inflate the total number. We may also have the same complaint against a number of Councillors, which can again inflate the total number.

4.5 The 'Stayed' column has been included in the report as per the committee request. This is for any complaints that are awaiting information from external bodies i.e. police/another authority or body.

4.6 There have been 4 complaints concluded since the report to the committee of 20th April 2026 as follows:

- 2 complaints were accepted and informal advice and guidance given by the Monitoring Officer, further to consultation with the Independent Person. This complaint was from one person, but related to two councillors in respect of the same alleged incident.

- 1 complaint was accepted and an internal investigation carried out. The investigation concluded that there was insufficient evidence of a breach. Further to consultation with the Independent Person, the Monitoring Officer determined there was no further action required and the matter was concluded
- 1 complaint was rejected by the Monitoring Officer, further to consultation with the Independent Person.

4.7 Of the 6 ongoing complaints:

- Received 08/2025– Complaint subject to internal investigation which is ongoing.
- Received 10/2025 and 12/2025 – Complaints are in respect of the same member, and from the same person in respect of similar alleged issues. Complaints are being jointly considered and are subject to external investigation which is ongoing.
- Received 04/2026 – Complaint is being considered by the Monitoring Officer in consultation with the Independent Person.
- Received 05/2026 - Complaint is being considered by the Monitoring Officer in consultation with the Independent Person.
- Received 05/2026 - Complaint is being considered by the Monitoring Officer in consultation with the Independent Person.

4.8 The theme of complaints will be continued to be monitored to consider what additional support is required. No particular themes have been identified for those complaints submitted in the last quarter.

4.9 **Relevant discussion points:**

- **Review of monthly updates**
- **Engagement with training**
  - o Is there any specific training the Committee would like to see for standards issues?

5. **Ward Member Engagement if relevant and appropriate**

5.1 Not applicable.

6. **Other potential alternative(s) and why these have not been recommended**

6.1 Not applicable as report is for information only.

## 7. Impact(s) of the recommended decision(s)

Topic	Impact
Financial (including Social Value)	There is no financial impact as the report is for information and discussion only.
Procurement	There is no procurement impact as the report is for information and discussion only.
Legal	There is no legal impact as the report is for information and discussion only.
Risk	The report contributes to the Council demonstrating its approach to monitoring and maintaining standards of behaviour and ethical governance.
Human Rights, Public Sector Equality Duty and Community Cohesion	There are no issues affecting human rights, the public sector equality duty or community cohesion.
Reducing Poverty	There is no impact on reducing poverty as the report is for information and discussion only.
Climate Change / Environmental	There is no impact on the Council's climate change or environmental aspirations as the report is for information and discussion only.
Children and Young People Cared for by the Authority and Care Leavers	There is no impact on children and young people cared for by the Authority and care leavers as the report is for information and discussion only.
Data Protection	There are no issues of data protection as the report is for information and discussion only.

### Actions to be taken to implement the recommended decision(s)

Action	Responsible Officer	Deadline
None		

### Appendices

1	None
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### Background papers

Body	Report title	Date
None		

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