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### Ethics Committee

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**Time and Date**

11.00 am on Thursday, 25 June, 2026

**Place**

Diamond Rooms 1 and 2 - Council House

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1. **Apologies**
2. **Declarations of Interest**
3. **Minutes** (Pages 3 - 8)
  - a) To agree the Minutes of the previous meeting held on 19 March, 2026
  - b) Any matters arising
4. **Annual Report of the Ethics Committee 2025/26** (Pages 9 - 18)  
Report of the Director of Law, Governance and Safer Communities
5. **Standards and Conduct Framework for Local Authorities - Update**  
(Pages 19 - 24)  
Report of the Director of Law, Governance and Safer Communities
6. **New Members Induction Programme - Interim Progress Report** (Pages 25 - 38)  
Report of the Director of Law, Governance and Safer Communities
7. **Code of Conduct Update** (Pages 39 - 48)  
Report of the Director of Law, Governance and Safer Communities
8. **Work Programme for Ethics Committee 2026-27** (Pages 49 - 56)  
Report of the Director of Law, Governance and Safer Communities
9. **Any other items of public business which the Chair decides to take as matters of urgency because of the special circumstances involved**

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Julie Newman, Director of Law, Governance and Safer Communities, Council House, Coventry

Wednesday, 17 June 2026

Note: The person to contact about the agenda and documents for this meeting is Suzanne Bennett, Governance Services Email: [suzanne.bennett@coventry.gov.uk](mailto:suzanne.bennett@coventry.gov.uk)

Membership: Councillors L Bigham, W Davies, M Heaven, P Hetherton, A Hopkins (Chair), T Jewell, D McCann)

Independent Persons: S Atkinson, R Wills, P Wiseman

Named Substitute Members: Councillors F Beechey, J Blundell, S Gray, L Kelly, M Mutton, S Nazir, J Odje

### **Public Access**

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**Suzanne Bennett, Governance Services**  
**Email: [suzanne.bennett@coventry.gov.uk](mailto:suzanne.bennett@coventry.gov.uk)**

**Coventry City Council**  
**Minutes of the Meeting of Ethics Committee held at 11.00 am on Thursday, 19**  
**March 2026**

Present:

Members: Councillor S Nazir (Chair)

Councillor J Gardiner  
Councillor S Gray (substitute for Councillor E Reeves)  
Councillor P Hetherton  
Councillor G Lloyd (substitute for Councillor L Bigham)  
Councillor M Mutton (substitute for Councillor N Akhtar)

Independent persons: S Atkinson, R Wills, P Wiseman

Employees (by Directorate):

Law, Governance and Safer Communities J Newman (Director), S Bennett, G Holmes, S Manhertz

Apologies: Councillors N Akhtar, L Bigham and E Reeves

## **Public Business**

### **24. Declarations of Interest**

There were no disclosable pecuniary interests.

### **25. Minutes**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 18 December, 2025 were agreed and signed as a true record.

There were no matters arising.

### **26. Elected Members Training and Development Strategy 2026-30**

The Committee considered a report of the Director of Law, Governance and Safer Communities, (which would also be considered by the Cabinet Member for Policing and Equalities on 23 March, 2026 and Council on 24 March, 2026), appended to which was the proposed Elected Members Training and Development Strategy 2026-2030.

The report indicated that the role of an Elected Member is ever changing as demands from residents and Council policy and services evolve over time. In addition, there are legislative changes and requirements (for example in relation to planning) that need to be taken in account. Therefore, to be able to ensure that the Elected Members Training and Development Strategy is relevant to those demands and changes it is considered necessary to review and refresh the Strategy which had been in place since 2022.

The timing of this refresh means that all current Elected Members will have served their term of office under the previous Strategy, so are able to contribute to the review of that Strategy through a process of surveys and via the Members Training and Development Cabinet Member Advisory Panel. The proposed refreshed Strategy was found at Appendix A to the report.

The Strategy covers:

- Purpose of the Strategy
- Assessing Need and Requesting Training
- Training Matrix
- Governance and Delivery
- Appendix 1 – Example Training Matrix
- Appendix 2 – Revised Terms of Reference for Elected Members Training and Development Advisory Panel

To support the refresh of the Strategy, the survey undertaken in 2019 was repeated to provide a comparison on how training is viewed by Elected Members compared to before there was a strategy in place. There has been an increase in support for a core training programme for all Elected Members (94.4% in 2026 compared to 83.3% in 2019).

There has also been improved communication about training. 94% receive information from Internal Communication compared to 78% in 2019. Also, in 2019 28% of respondents said they received no information about training. In 2026 this was 0%.

The report indicated that Elected Members feel the Council is better meeting their training needs. 89% feel the Council is meeting their training needs “A lot” or “A Moderate amount” compared to 62.5% in 2019. Also, in 2019 12.5% said the Council wasn’t meeting their needs at all. In 2026 this was 0%. More information on the results was detailed in Appendix B to the report.

As well as being based on more recent Elected Member feedback, the updated Strategy reflects the changes in how the Strategy is administered by Governance Services, as well identifying a process to assess the added value of one-off training requests that have a cost associated with it. It is proposed that this will be assessed by the Monitoring Office in consultation with the Chair of the Member Training and Development Cabinet Member Advisory Panel.

In reviewing the Strategy, it was considered that the terms of reference for the Member Training and Development Cabinet Member Advisory Panel should also be reviewed to ensure that they reflect the way in which the delivery of the Strategy has evolved over time. The membership of the Advisory Panel is cross-party, chaired by a representative from the controlling Group, and also invites newly elected Members to attend as observers. The terms of reference have been amended to include a requirement to submit an annual report to the Ethics Committee who have taken an interest in Elected Member training and have requested regular reports on delivery of the Strategy, including receiving an update of the core training requirements. The amended terms of reference were included in Appendix 2 of the Strategy.

In order to ensure that a wide range of training and development is offered to Elected Members, a training matrix will be developed and endorsed by the Members Training and Development Advisory Panel. The training matrix will be regularly reviewed and evaluated to ensure it meets Elected Members' training needs. The training matrix will provide a programme of core training which all Elected Members will be required to complete throughout their term of office. In addition to this there will be role specific core training for those Elected Members with special responsibilities, or who sit on specific Committees. An example of the training matrix was included in Appendix 1 of the Strategy document.

Core training for all Elected Members will include:

- Code of Conduct
- Induction programme for newly elected Members
- Personal Safety
- Equalities
- Data Protection and Cyber Security
- Health and Safety

Elected Members appointed to Planning Committee and Licensing and Regulatory Committee will also be required to complete training to sit on those Committees in accordance with the Constitution.

There will also be a programme of regular in-house supplementary training, identified by regular training needs analysis through consultation with Elected Members. This will be organised and arranged, but not necessarily delivered, internally by Council officers. In addition to an in-house programme, Elected Members may request to attend ad hoc one-off training requests delivered by external organisations, such as the Local Government Association (LGA). A training request pro-forma will be developed and managed by Governance Services. There will be a budget allocated to enable one-off requests.

Elected Members will also be able to request additional training, where several Elected Members have identified that a greater understanding of an issue is required and is not covered by the current offer. This will enable the training and development programme to be responsive and flexible to Elected Members training needs. The training strategy provides a framework in which there is flexibility to offer a variety of training methods as well as insight from Members directly through surveys as well as strategic oversight from the Members Advisory Panel.

The Committee welcomed the updated Strategy and thanked officers for all the work undertaken in this regard. Officers were particularly commended for providing flexibility in the delivery of the training, thus ensuring that it is accessible for everyone.

**RESOLVED that the Ethics Committee:-**

- 1) Supports the refreshed Elected Members Training and Development Strategy as appended to the report.**
- 2) Agrees to receive an Annual Report on delivery of the Strategy as well as any progress reports as requested.**

27. **Six Monthly Review of Members' Gifts and Hospitality**

The Committee considered a report of the Director of Law, Governance and Safer Communities which provided a six-month review of the Members' Declarations of Gifts and Hospitality Register for the period 1 July to 31 December, 2025.

The Committee welcomed that Register had been updated to provide more information on any benefits to the Council and considered ways of reviewing and evaluating the Gifts and Hospitality Policy for both Members and Officers (Minute 28 below also refers)

**RESOLVED that the Committee:-**

- 1) **Notes the Members' Gifts and Hospitality Register entries from 1 July to 31 December , 2025.**
- 2) **Requests that the Director of Law, Governance and Safer Communities undertakes a four yearly review of the Gifts and Hospitality Policy to ensure that it is fit for purpose.**

28. **Six Monthly Review of Officers' Gifts and Hospitality**

The Committee considered a report of the Director of Law, Governance and Safer Communities which provided a six-month review of Officers' Declarations of Gifts and Hospitality Register for the period 1 July to 31 December, 2025.

The Committee welcomed that the Register had been updated to provide more information on any benefits to the Council and considered ways of reviewing and evaluating the Gifts and Hospitality Policy for both Members and Officers (Minute 27 above also refers).

**RESOLVED that the Committee:-**

- 1) **Notes the Officers' Gifts and Hospitality Register entries from 1 July to 31 December, 2025.**
- 2) **Requests that the Director of Law, Governance and Safer Communities undertakes a four yearly review of the Gifts and Hospitality Policy to ensure that it is fit for purpose.**

29. **Code of Conduct Update**

The Ethics Committee considered a report of the Director of Law, Governance and Safer Communities which provided an update on national issues in relation to the ethical behaviour of Elected Members and the local position in Coventry regarding the Code of Conduct.

In relation to a Code of Conduct investigation and outcome into the use of a Whatsapp Group by a number of Tameside Councillors, the Committee sought and received assurances that training on the use of Whatsapp and other social

media tools would be included in the training programme for Elected Members (Minute 26 above refers)

The Committee also noted the position in relation to the local parish Councils and their Code of Conduct. It was noted that it was proposed that future reports would separate out complaints in relation to Coventry City Councillors and local parish Councillors.

**RESOLVED that the Ethics Committee:-**

- 1) **Notes the position with regard to matters concerning local authorities nationally.**
- 2) **Welcomes the assurances received in relation to the training to be provided to Elected Members.**
- 3) **Notes that future reports will identify complaints received in relation to Coventry City Councillors and local parish Councillors separately.**
- 2) **Notes the local position relating to the operation of the Council's Code of Conduct and delegates any actions arising from these to the Director of Law, Governance and Safer Communities, following consultation with the Chair of the Ethics Committee.**

30. **Work Programme for the Ethics Committee 2026/27**

The Committee considered a report of the Director of Law, Governance and Safer Communities which outlined the proposed Work Programme for the Ethics Committee for the Municipal Year 2026/27. The proposed Work Programme was appended to the report.

**RESOLVED that approval be given to the Work Programme for 2026/27 as appended to the report with the inclusion of an update at the first meeting of the new Municipal year on the outcome of the Government Consultation on the Standards and Conduct Framework for Local Authorities.**

31. **Any Other Items of Urgent Public Business**

There were no other items of urgent public business.

(Meeting closed at 11.45am)

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## Public Report Ethics Committee

Ethics Committee  
Council

25 June 2026  
TBC

**Name of Cabinet Member:**

N/A - Ethics Committee

**Director Approving Submission of the report:**

Director of Law, Governance and Safer Communities

**Ward(s) affected:**

None

**Title: Annual Report of Ethics Committee 2025-26**

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**Is this a key decision?**

No

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### Executive Summary

This report forms the tenth annual report of the Ethics Committee, setting out the work of the Committee over the last municipal year. In particular, it reports on:

- Code of Conduct Complaints
- Local Code of Corporate Governance
- Ending Abuse in Public Life – Council’s Self-Assessment Toolkit
- Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman Annual Report
- Preparations for Candidates in the May 2026 Municipal Elections

The report also details other, regular work of the Committee over the last year and sets out a brief overview of work to be undertaken in the 2026/27 municipal year. The Committee is asked to approve the report and recommend to Council that it notes the report and considers whether there is any work that it would wish the Committee to undertake.

**Recommendations:**

**The Ethics Committee is recommended to:**

- 1) Approve the Annual Report of the Committee; and
- 2) Recommend that Council notes the Annual Report and considers whether there is any work within the Committee's terms of reference that Council would wish the Committee to undertake.

**Council is recommended to :-**

- 1) Note the Annual Report of the Ethics Committee; and
- 2) Consider whether there is any work within the Committee's terms of reference that Council would wish the Committee to undertake.

**List of Appendices included:**

None.

**Other useful background papers can be found at the following web addresses:**

None.

**Has it been or will it be considered by Scrutiny?**

No.

**Has it been or will it be considered by any other Council Committee, Advisory Panel or other body?**

No.

**Will this report go to Council?**

Yes – Date tbc

## **Report title: Annual Report of Ethics Committee 2025/26**

### **1. Context (or background)**

1.1 Under the Localism Act 2011, the Council has a duty to:

- Promote and maintain high standards of conduct by its Members and co-opted members; and
- When discharging its duty, adopt a voluntary code dealing with the conduct that is expected of Members and co-opted Member of the authority when they are acting in their capacity as Members (that is, in an official capacity).

1.2 Section 28(6) of the Localism Act 2011 also requires a relevant authority to have arrangements in place to deal with complaints that its Members' code of conduct has been breached, including arrangements for:

- Complaints to be investigated.
- Decisions on allegations to be made.

1.3 The Council's Ethics Committee was established in 2012 following the introduction of the new duties and responsibilities regarding ethical conduct in the Localism Act 2011. The Council as a whole has a legal duty to promote and maintain high standards of conduct by Members and co-opted Members of the authority. The Ethics Committee, through its work, assists in discharging this statutory duty.

1.4 The terms of reference of Ethics Committee also include:

- (a) Making recommendations to the Council on the appointment of "independent persons" under the Localism Act 2011;
- (b) Approving and revising the Complaints Protocol which will set out the detailed procedures for considering complaints made against Elected and Co-opted Members under the Code of Conduct for Elected and Co-opted Members;
- (c) Considering complaints made against Elected and Co-opted Members under the Code of Conduct for Elected and Co-opted Members in accordance with Complaints Protocol;
- (d) Monitoring the operation of the Code of Conduct for Elected and Co-opted Members and making appropriate recommendations to the relevant body;
- (e) At the request of the Member or Co-opted Member concerned, reviewing any decision of the Monitoring Officer not to grant a dispensation in relation to disclosable pecuniary interests in accordance with Section 33 of the Localism Act 2011;

- (f) Monitoring the operation of the Code of Conduct for Employees and making appropriate recommendations to the relevant body;
- (g) Considering complaints made against Elected Members of Finham Parish Council, Keresley Parish Council and Allesley Parish Council under the relevant Parish Council's Code of Conduct for Elected Members in accordance with the City Council's Complaints Protocol; and
- (h) Considering any other matters which are relevant to the ethical governance of the Council, its Members or Employees.

1.5 The Committee approves a work programme for each year which includes regular reports as well as one off pieces of work. At its meeting in March 2017, the Committee agreed that in future it would submit an annual report to Council setting out the work that it has accomplished in the past year. This report comprises the tenth Annual Report of the Ethics Committee.

## **2. The Annual Report and Recommended Proposal**

### **2.1 About the Committee**

In the municipal year 2025/26 Ethics Committee comprised 6 Councillors. The membership of the Committee was Cllr S Nazir (Chair), Cllr N Akhtar, Cllr L Bigham, Cllr J Gardiner, Cllr P Hetherington, Cllr E M Reeves. There were 3 named substitutes: Cllr S Gray; Cllr G Lloyd; Cllr M Mutton. It is regrettable that Members of the Conservative Group decided not to take up their allocated place and be a part of the Committee. The Independent Persons were Steven Atkinson, Ruth Wills and Peter Wiseman. The Committee held 4 scheduled meetings in 2025/26 (in June 2025, September 2025, January 2026 and March 2026).

### **2.2 Code of Conduct Complaints**

All Members and Co-opted Members agree to abide by the Members' Code of Conduct upon their election.

The Council received a total of 10 new complaints against 13 Councillors in the municipal year 2025/26. Out of the 10 complaints received by the Monitoring Officer, 1 related to Finham Parish Council, 1 related to Allesley Parish Council and the remaining 8 related to Members of the City Council.

The Finham Parish Council complaint was made about 2 Councillors. It was escalated to Stage 2, upon which it was not upheld.

The Allesley Parish Council complaint was in relation to 2 Councillors and was dealt with at Stage 1 with no further action recommended

For the City Council, one complaint could not be investigated as the Councillor was not acting in their capacity as a Councillor, in the circumstances which gave rise to the complaint.

There were 2 complaints which were concluded at Stage 1 after each being reviewed by an Independent Person after which it was determined that there was no breach of the Code and 1 where no further action was taken.

4 complaints remain at Stage 1.

None of these complaints were Councillor on Councillor.

### **2.3 Local Code of Corporate Governance**

The Local Code of Corporate Governance sets out the way in which the City Council will satisfy the principles of good governance. It details the City Council's action plan for achieving these principles. The development of the Local Code is upon recommendation by CIPFA/Solace Framework to Local Authorities to maintain a Local Code to assist in achieving good governance.

The Local Code was first introduced in 2017 and is reviewed regularly as a means of best practice. It is considered by the Audit and Procurement Committee. It was updated in 2025 and considered by the Ethics Committee in the September of that year, where the legal requirement to undertake an annual review was noted.

### **2.4 Update on the Local Government Association Ending Abuse in Public Life – Council's Self Assessment and Tool kit**

The Local Government Association (LGA) produced a toolkit with the aim of helping local authorities in tackling and mitigating the impact and risks of abuse and intimidation that councillors may encounter as part of their role, supporting them to be safe.

The Committee has regularly received progress updates on the work being undertaken including the most recent update in March 2025. Since then, efforts have continued to support Councillors. The Committee were informed of changes and work in progress including training on personal safety and awareness, links and signposting on the intranet for advice and the plans to provide a Councillor-led approach to delivering the actions and outcomes identified in the self-assessment to further aid progress and the creation of a Scrutiny Task and Finish Group. The Committee noted the progress undertaken by the LGA and supported the proposed approach.

### **2.5 Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman Annual Report**

In January 2026, the Committee considered the Complaints to the Local Government and Social Ombudsman (LGSCO) report for the year 2024/25. With the LGSCO being the final stage for Local Authority complaints, it issues an annual letter which sets out information regarding complaints received concerning the Local Authority such as the number of complaints and any patterns of complaints.

## **2.6 Preparations for Candidates in the May 2026 Municipal Elections**

A report on Prospective Councillor Information was considered by the Committee which sought to address the concerns previously raised by the Committee regarding newly elected Councillors and the extent to which they understand and are prepared for their role before standing.

The Committee heard about the work being undertaken by officers to support new Councillors including an induction, training and the publishing of a 'Becoming a Councillor' booklet.

In March 2026, upon consideration of the report, the Committee made suggestions regarding the booklet including a list of useful skills, a glossary, information of the potential time commitment required and the variety of ways in which ward duties can be undertaken. Although the booklet had already been produced, the suggestions were able to be considered for use on the City Council's website or incorporated into candidate briefing sessions

## **2.7 Other Work**

The Committee received updates on Members Training and Development Review 2025/26. The Elected Members Training and Development Strategy was refreshed during 2026 and the final version of the strategy was considered by Ethics committee ahead of Council on 24<sup>th</sup> March 2026. The terms of reference were amended to include an Annual Report on Elected Members training to Ethics Committee, in addition to any other information requested. The Committee also regularly monitored the Ethics Committee Work Programme throughout the year.

## **2.8 Work Programme for 2026/27**

In addition to regular reports on Code of Conduct complaints, updates from the Monitoring Officer, and Officer and Member gifts and hospitality this year, among other things, the Committee will look at work in the following:

- Update on the Standards and Conduct Framework for Local Authorities
- Local Code of Corporate Governance
- Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman Annual Report
- Review of work on the New Member Induction Programme and Prospective Councillor Information

The Committee will also maintain a watching brief on any legislative changes arising from the Ethics and Integrity Commission and any recommendations.

## **2.9 Recommendations**

The Committee is recommended to:-

- (1) Approve the Annual Report of the Committee; and

- (2) Recommend that Council notes the Annual Report and to consider whether there is any work within the Committee's terms of reference that Council would wish the Committee to undertake.

Council is recommended to:

- 3) Note the Annual Report of the Ethics Committee; and
- 4) Consider whether there is any work within the Committee's terms of reference that Council would wish the Committee to undertake.

### **3. Results of consultation undertaken**

- 3.1 There has been no consultation as there is no proposal to implement at this stage which would require a consultation.

### **4. Timetable for implementing this decision**

Not applicable.

### **5. Comments from the Director of Finance and Resources and the Director of Law, Governance and Safer Communities**

None.

#### **5.1 Financial implications**

There are no specific financial implications arising from the recommendations within this report.

#### **5.2 Legal implications**

There are no specific legal implications arising from this report. The issues referred to in this report will assist the Council in complying with its obligations under section 27 (duty to promote and maintain high standards of conduct) and section 28 (codes of conduct) of the Localism Act 2011.

### **6 Other implications**

None.

#### **6.1 How will this contribute to the One Coventry Plan?**

Not applicable.

#### **6.2 How is risk being managed?**

There is no direct risk to the organisation as a result of the contents of this report.

### **6.3 What is the impact on the organisation?**

No direct impact at this stage.

### **6.4 Equalities / EIA**

6.4.1 The Council must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to:

- a. eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by the Equality Act;
- b. advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;
- c. foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

6.4.2 The Code of Conduct and the Council's arrangements adhere with national guidance and fully comply with the public-sector equality duty.

### **6.5 Implications for (or impact on) climate change and the environment**

None.

### **6.6 Implications for partner organisations?**

None at this stage.

**Report author(s):****Name and job title:** Shanita Manhertz, Trainee Solicitor**Directorate:** Law, Governance and Safer Communities**Contact details:** 024 7697 2350; [Shanita.Manhertz@coventry.gov.uk](mailto:Shanita.Manhertz@coventry.gov.uk)

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<b>Contributor/approver name</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Service Area</b>	<b>Date document sent out</b>	<b>Date response received or approved</b>
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Suzanne Bennett	Governance Services Officer	Law, Governance and Safer Communities	10/06/2026	10/06/2026
Oluremi Aremu	Head of Legal and Procurement	Law, Governance and Safer Communities	10/06/2026	10/06/2026
Gennie Holmes	Scrutiny Co-Ordinator	Governance and Scrutiny	10/06/2026	10/06/2026
<b>Names of approvers for submission: (Officers and Members)</b>				
Finance: Richard Shirley	Lead Accountant	Finance	10/06/2026	10/06/2026
Legal: Oluremi Aremu	Head of Legal and Procurement	Law, Governance and Safer Communities	10/06/2026	10/06/2026
Governance: Adrian West	Head of Governance Services	Law, Governance and Safer Communities	10/06/2026	10/06/2026
Councillor A Hopkins	Chair of Ethics Committee		12/06/2026	15/06/2026

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## Public Report Ethics Committee

Ethics Committee

25 June 2026

**Name of Cabinet Member:**

N/A - Ethics Committee

**Director Approving Submission of the report:**

Director of Law, Governance and Safer Communities

**Ward(s) affected:**

None

**Title: Standards and Conduct Framework for Local Authorities - Update**

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**Is this a key decision?**

No

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**Executive Summary**

The report updates the Ethics Committee on the developments made to implement the new Standards and Conduct Framework. This specific report will highlight any developments since the consultation undertaken nationally and subsequent response by the Government which the Ethics Committee considered in January 2026.

**Recommendations:-**

The Ethics Committee is recommended to:

1. Note the progress on the development of the Standards and Conduct Framework for Local Authorities.

**List of Appendices included:**

None.

**Other useful background papers can be found at the following web addresses:**

None.

**Has it been or will it be considered by Scrutiny?**

No.

**Has it been or will it be considered by any other Council Committee, Advisory Panel or other body?**

No.

**Will this report go to Council?**

No.

## **Report title: Standards and Conduct Framework for Local Authorities - Update**

### **1. Context (or background)**

1.1 The Government plans to reform the current standards and conduct regime and published a consultation to obtain views on its proposals for Strengthening the standards and conduct framework for Local Authorities in England in relation to serious breaches of codes of conducts by Members. Following the consultation the Government published its response and set out the proposed measures in its ministerial statement. These include:

- Minimum mandatory code of conduct for local authorities in England
- Requirement for all local authorities to have a formal standards committee
- Specific support for both complainants and respondents
- Right to review (Appeal)
- Power to suspend
- Suspension following serious allegations
- Disqualification
- National appeals body

The Council engaged with the consultation and the Ethics Committee has noted the proposed measures and intends to monitor the regime as it develops. An overhaul of the current framework will bring about significant change for the Local Authority and the Committee, increasing responsibilities by embedding duties into statute and extending the powers available. Further, it will determine the way in which the Committee will assist the Council in complying with its duty to promote and maintain high standards of conduct currently under section 27 of the Localism Act and statutory requirements to follow.

### **1.2 Current position on the Standards and Conduct Framework**

Since the Government's response to the consultation on the Standards and Conduct Framework for local authorities in England on 11 November 2025 and the Committee's last update (8 January 2026), there have been very few updates.

The Government previously confirmed there will be further engagement on aspects of the standards and conduct framework, with sectors and stakeholders in order to further develop the measures.

The introduction of any powers will be by way of implementation through legislation. In contrast to the Public Office (Accountability) Bill, (which will introduce a mandatory Code of Conduct for those working for public authorities), which was reintroduced to Parliament in May, and likely to become law this year, the timeframe for the introduction of a mandatory Code for Members remains yet to be determined.

Following the King's Speech, the Association of Democratic Services Officers (ADSO) and Lawyers in Local Government (LLG) published a joint statement expressing their disappointment in the omission of reference to local government reforms in particular standards reform and remote hearings (the latter is beyond

the scope of this report) and suggested that the absence of such provisions means they are unlikely to become law “any time soon”. As a result, they called for clarity on when to “expect legislative provision”.

In June 2026, in responding to a question for short debate, the House of Lords Minister for Housing and Local Government confirmed the government’s intention to bring about reform “as soon as parliamentary time allows”.

The Committee will be notified should any substantive development occur.

## **2. Recommended proposal**

The Ethics Committee is recommended to:-

- (1) Note the progress on the development of the Standards and Conduct Framework for Local Authorities

## **3. Results of consultation undertaken**

- 3.1 There has been no consultation as there is no proposal to implement at this stage which would require a consultation.

## **4. Timetable for implementing this decision**

Not applicable.

## **5. Comments from the Director of Finance and Resources and the Director of Law, Governance and Safer Communities**

None.

### **5.1 Financial implications**

There are no specific financial implications arising from the recommendations within this report.

### **5.2 Legal implications**

The current legal framework in relation to the maintaining Standards, including powers is contained in the Localism Act 2011. The Council’s Constitution details the role of the Ethics Committee and contains the Member’s Code of Conduct.

The Council has a duty under section 27 of the Localism Act 2011 to promote and maintain high Standards of conduct by its Members and to adopt a code of conduct that is consistent with the Nolan Principles. Ensuring that the Standards Committee is kept up to date with national Standards issues is expected to facilitate compliance with this duty.

The changes proposed within the Government response will require legislative change, and timescales for these changes have not yet been announced. Within

their response, the Government indicates that they intend to consult further on various proposals prior to the formal legislative procedure commencing.

Once the legislative changes come into force, various parts of the constitution may require amendments.

## **6 Other implications**

None.

### **6.1 How will this contribute to the One Coventry Plan?**

Not applicable.

### **6.2 How is risk being managed?**

There is no direct risk to the organisation as a result of the contents of this report.

### **6.3 What is the impact on the organisation?**

No direct impact at this stage.

### **6.4 Equalities / EIA**

There are no public sector equality duties which are of relevance at this stage.

### **6.5 Implications for (or impact on) climate change and the environment**

None.

### **6.6 Implications for partner organisations?**

None at this stage.

**Report author(s):**

**Name and job title:** Shanita Manhertz, Trainee Solicitor

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Oluremi Aremu	Head of Legal and Procurement	Law, Governance and Safer Communities	10/06/2026	10/06/2026
<b>Names of approvers for submission: (Officers and Members)</b>				
Finance: Richard Shirley	Lead Accountant	Finance	10/06/2026	10/06/2026
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Governance: Adrian West	Head of Governance Services	Law, Governance and Safer Communities	10/06/2026	16/06/26
Councillor A Hopkins	Chair of Ethics Committee		12/06/2026	15/06/2026

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Ethics Committee

25 June 2026

**Name of Cabinet Member:**

NA – Ethics Committee

**Director approving submission of the report:**

Director of Law, Governance and Safer Communities

**Ward(s) affected:**

N/A

**Title:**

**New Members Induction Programme – Interim Progress Report June 2026**

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**Is this a key decision?**

No

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**Executive summary:**

This report provides the Ethics Committee with an interim progress report on the new Member Induction Programme.

**Recommendations:**

The Ethics Committee is requested to:

- 1) Consider the interim progress on the Members Induction Programme
- 2) Support and encourage all Members to participate in training and development opportunities
- 3) Provide any comments or recommendations on the future delivery of the Elected Members Training and Development Strategy

**List of Appendices included:**

The following appendices are attached to the report:

Appendix A – Induction Programme and Marketplace flyer

Appendix B – Data June 2026

**Background papers:**

None

**Other useful documents**

None

**Has it or will it be considered by Scrutiny?**

No

**Has it or will it be considered by any other Council Committee, Advisory Panel or other body?**

No

**Will this report go to Council?**

No

## **Report title: New Members Induction Programme – Interim Progress Report June 2026**

### **1. Context (or background)**

- 1.1. The refreshed Members Training and Development Strategy was agreed by Council at their meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> March 2026. This Strategy included a set of core training for all Elected Members to complete during their term of office.
- 1.2. This core training programme was agreed as:
  - Code of Conduct
  - Induction programme for newly Elected Members
  - Personal Safety
  - Equalities
  - Data Protection and Cyber Security
  - Health and Safety
- 1.3. This report provides an interim progress report on the delivery of that core training programme, ahead of a more in-depth report, including feedback from Members, in January 2207

### **2. Options considered and recommended proposal**

- 2.1. **Do nothing** (Not recommended)
- 2.2. The Elected Members Training Strategy was agreed by Council in March 2026 and therefore is required to be implemented.
- 2.3. **Support the recommendations in the report** (Recommended proposal)
- 2.4. Within the refreshed Strategy, reports to the Ethics Committee are built into the Terms of Reference for the Elected Member Training and Development Advisory Panel and regular progress reports can be requested as well as an Annual Report.
- 2.5. Due to the anticipated higher number of new Members at this year's election a different approach was taken to the induction programme. At the election count, all elected Members were provided with an information pack, covering the basic information required to start their role as Councillors. This information included the Induction Programme for newly elected Members and an invitation to the "marketplace" (Appendix A)
- 2.6. The "marketplace" was held over two days and at different times to accommodate Members' availability. It was an opportunity for new Members to pick up and be set up on their IT equipment, complete their registers of interest, tour the Council House and interact with all Council Services. The invitation was extended to all Members, not just those newly elected. This was well attended with all except one new Member, who was unable to attend and has since completed these actions, plus 10 returning Members. Informal feedback from this session has been positive, from both Members and officers involved.
- 2.7. The data in Appendix B shows the current take-up of the induction programme, as well as the core training programme offered to all Elected Members.

- 2.8. The Code of Conduct, which is mandatory for all Members, has had a take-up of 76%. There are 13 Members who have not yet completed this training, mainly due to leave commitments. There will be an additional session arranged to ensure all Members are trained.
- 2.9. Those induction sessions which have been held online or hybrid have been recorded and those recordings have been made available to Members who were not able to attend the session. A record is kept of those Members who have accessed the recordings.
- 2.10. Some sessions have not yet been delivered so acceptance of invites has been recorded for those being delivered between 16<sup>th</sup> June 2026 and 8<sup>th</sup> July 2026.
- 2.11. There has been a really positive take-up of the training offer so far, particularly from the newly elected Members. This bodes well for the rest of the programme delivery.

### **3. Results of consultation undertaken**

- 3.1. Elected Members are regularly consulted on their training needs to ensure that the offer is relevant and accessible. The induction programme and core training offer was developed using feedback from Members, as part of the Strategy refresh

### **4. Timetable for implementing this decision**

- 4.1. The Elected Members Training and Development Strategy is delivered over the municipal year. A further and more in-depth progress and evaluation report will be presented to the Ethics Committee in January 2027, which will include Members feedback. This will be used to shape and inform future induction programmes.

### **5. Comments from Director of Finance and Resources and Director of Law. Governance and Safer Communities.**

#### **5.1. Financial Implications**

There is no cost of developing the Strategy other than officer time as this will be delivered by existing officers. There is already a budget allocated for Members training and development. These proposals would be delivered within the existing budget allocation.

#### **5.2. Legal Implications**

The provision of a training and development Strategy and core training will further the ability of Elected Members to undertake their roles and make robust and informed decisions

### **6. Other implications**

#### **6.1. How will this contribute to the One Coventry Plan?**

By enabling a well-trained cohort of Elected Members with the skills and knowledge to deliver the One Coventry Plan.

#### **How is risk being managed?**

By providing the opportunity for Elected Members to have access to good quality training and development, the risk to the organisation is reduced. Elected Members

with appropriate skills and knowledge leads to good decision making. In Councils where poor decision making has taken place, this has led to poor management and significant risks to the organisation.

**6.2. What is the impact on the organisation?**

By delivering the Strategy, Elected Members will continue to have access to relevant training, meaning the Council will be better equipped to deliver the ambitions in the One Coventry Plan. Responsibility for managing the Elected Members Training and Development Strategy lies with the Head of Governance Services.

**6.3. Equalities / EIA?**

The implementation of an Elected Members Training and Development Strategy will include needs assessment in terms of accessibility, to ensure that there are no negative impacts on any protected group.

**6.4. Implications for (or impact on) climate change and the environment?**

There will be no implications or impact on climate change or the environment as a result of implementing the Elected Members Training and Development Strategy

**6.5. Implications for partner organisations?**

None

**Report author(s):**

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Governance and Scrutiny

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Suzanne Bennett	Governance Services Co- ordinator	Law, Governance and Safer Communities	9/6/26	9/6/26
Asher Veness	Governance Services Officer	Law, Governance and Safer Communities	9/6/26	10/6/26
Other Members				
<b>Names of approvers for submission: (officers and members)</b>				
Finance: Richard Shirley	Lead Accountant	Finance	9/6/26	9/6/26
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Adrian West	Head of Governance Services	Law, Governance and Safer Communities	9/6/26	15/06/26
Councillor Hopkins	Chair of Ethics Committee	-	12/6/26	15/6/26

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# Members Induction 2026

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
11 May	12 May	13 May	14 May	15 May
	All Day – Market Place Day 1 10am - 5pm • Drop-in session • Collect IT and ID • Meet Council services	All Day – Market Place Day 2 1 - 8pm • Drop-in session • Collect IT and ID • Meet Council services		
18 May	19 May	20 May	21 May	22 May
10 - 12am Code of Conduct Option 1 (CR3)	3.30pm Code of Conduct Option 2 (tbc)		11am Annual General Meeting	
25 May	26 May	27 May	28 May	29 May
<b>NO TRAINING THIS WEEK</b>				
1 June	2 June	3 June	4 June	5 June
1 - 2.30pm Council Decision making and the Petitions Scheme (Council Chamber)	2 - 3.30pm Local Government Finance and the Budget (online)	9 - 11am Safeguarding and Corporate Parenting – (online)	5 - 7pm Code of Conduct Option 3 (online)	
8 June	9 June	10 June	11 June	12 June
2 - 4pm Planning Committee training (CR3)		2 - 3pm Resident Support (hybrid)	4 - 5pm Media Relations and Social Media – DR2/hybrid	11.30am - 1pm Chamber Skills Opposition Groups (Council Chamber) 2-3.30 Chamber Skills Administration Group (Council Chamber)
15 June	16 June	17 June	18 June	19 June
All Day – WMCA Cllr Induction Day – 16 Summer Lane, Birmingham	9.45am - 4pm Licensing Committee Training (DR2)	2 - 4.30pm Civic Coaching (Mayor and Deputy Mayor only) Council Chamber		

**Other key dates for your diary:**

**15 June 2026 - WMCA Councillor Induction Day – 2026 – Summer Lane, Birmingham**

This event is designed to support Councillors appointed to the WMCA Board or Committees by equipping them with the knowledge, skills and confidence needed to be effective in their role. It provides clarity on governance, decision-making and expectations, while building capability to contribute constructively, provide informed challenge, and add value to the Combined Authority's work from the outset.

**Big Regional Get Together – Monday 6 July 5-7pm – West Midlands Fire Authority**

The “Big Regional Get Together” brings together the Region's key Public Bodies in one place to help new and returning Councillors understand how the Combined Authority, Fire, Police and Local Government work together to deliver for the West Midlands. Following the Local Elections, the event provides a shared space to build relationships, showcase impact, and support Councillors to navigate the regional landscape with confidence.

**Chair's Training – 8th July 2-4.30pm – in person – Council House**

Training delivered by the Association of Democratic Service Officers (ADSO) for all new and returning Chairs and Deputy Chairs.

**Hitting the Ground Running – LGA – October – Birmingham**

Delivered by the Local Government Association, for all newly elected Members across the region. Meet Member peers and includes a Q&A session.

**Public Speaking – Coventry – 9th September 2-3.30pm – in person, Council Chamber. For all Members.**

**1-1 Casework Tool support – Members services – dates arranged to requirements.**



# Marketplace for Elected Members

**Tuesday 12 May, 10am - 5pm**

**Wednesday 13 May, 1pm - 8pm**

**Diamond Rooms – Council House**

**Drop in on these days and you can:**

- Pick up laptops and mobile phones and ID badges
- Find out about Council Services and partners – meet with senior officers
- Take a tour of the Council House
- Get support and information



Coventry City Council

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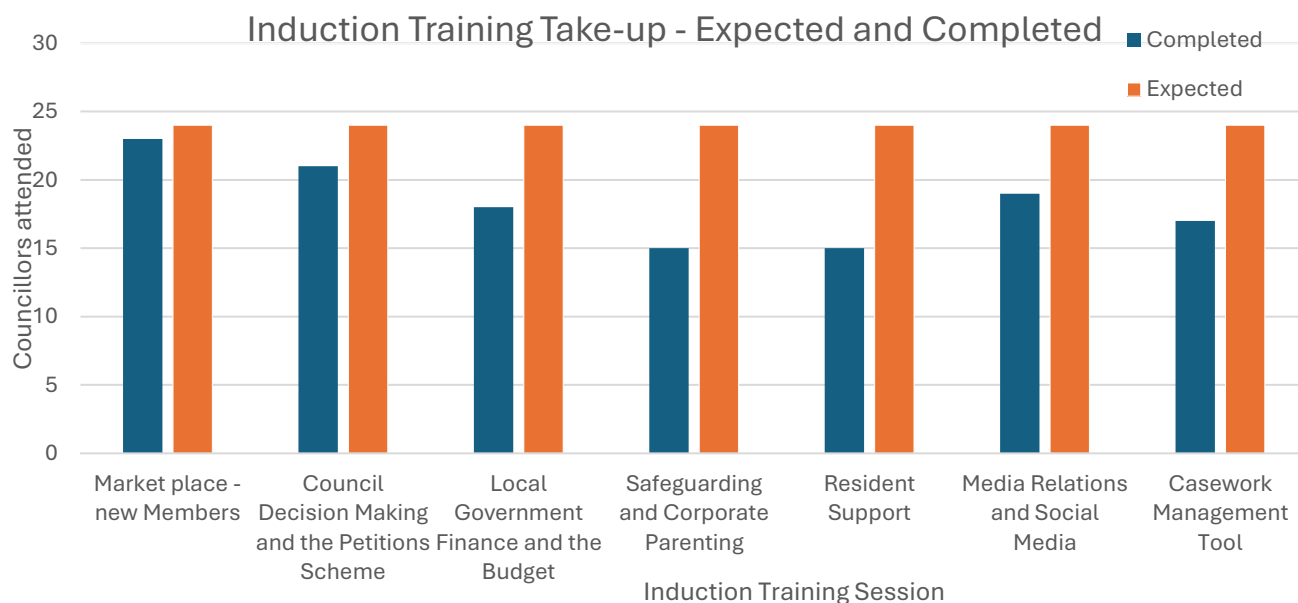
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## Member Training Attendance – New Members Induction

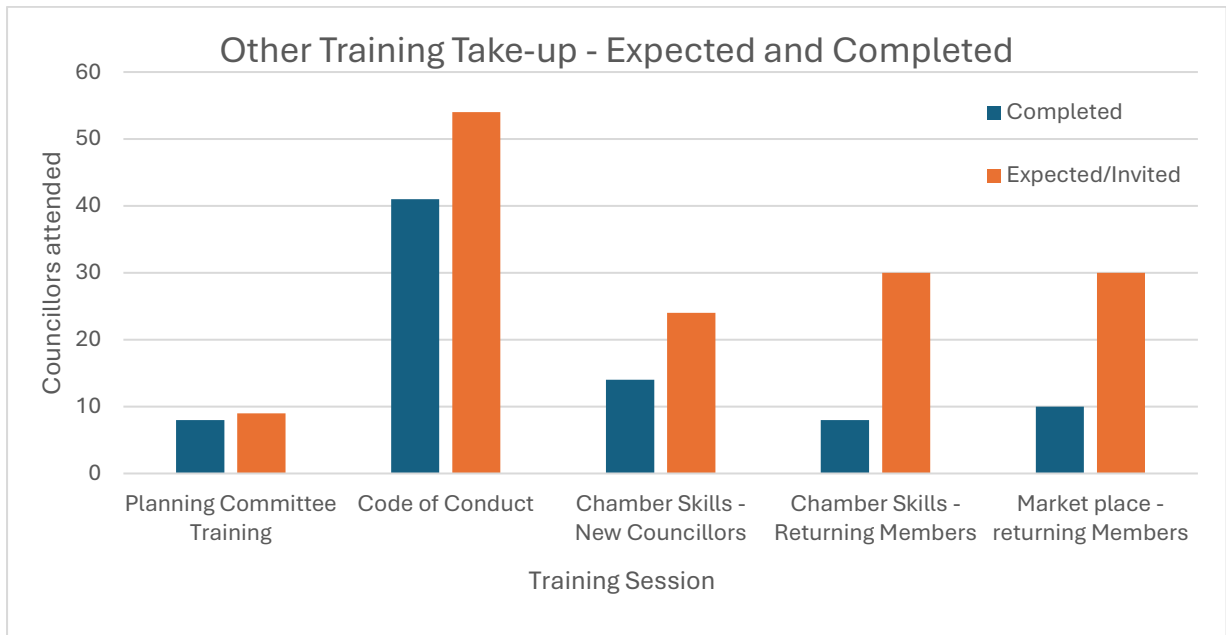
1. In May 2026, there were 24 newly elected Members to the Council. In preparation for a larger number of new members a comprehensive induction programme was developed to provide information and support to those Members new to the job. (Appendix A)
2. Chart A - The induction programme consisted of:
  - Marketplace event
  - Council Decision Making and the Petitions Scheme
  - Local Government Finance and the Budget
  - Safeguarding and Corporate Parenting
  - Resident Support
  - Media Relations and Social Media

Chart A - Induction Programme attendance



3. Chart B - There is also a programme of other training offered to Members as part of the start of the municipal year, including role related training which is required to be completed.
  - Planning Committee – mandatory for committee members
  - Code of Conduct - mandatory
  - Chamber Skills – for administration and opposition groups
  - Marketplace – returning Members

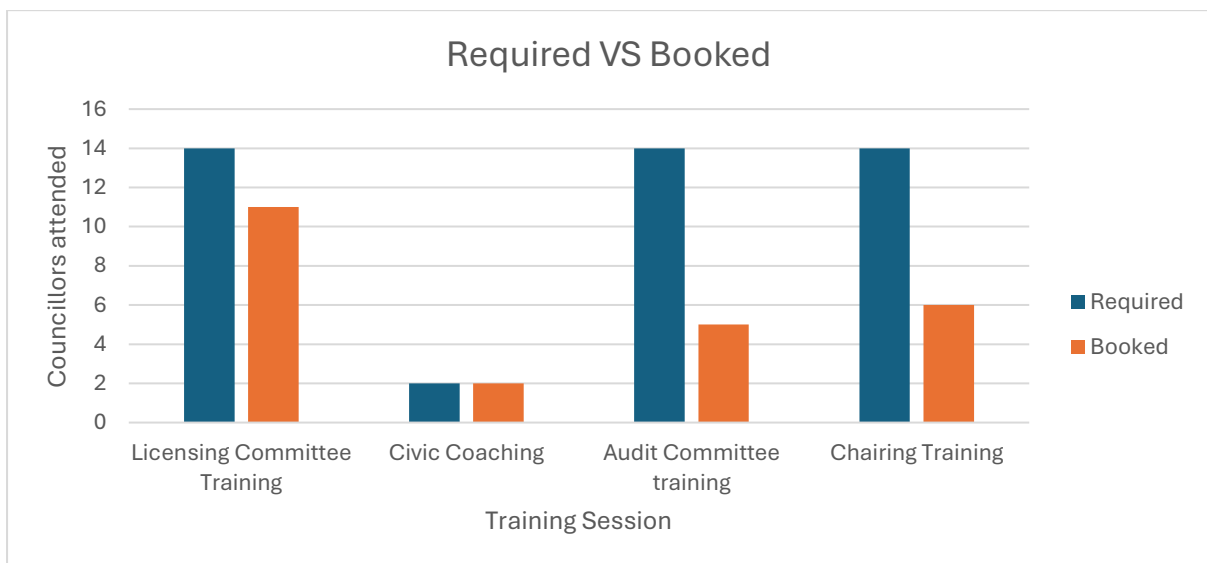
Chart B – Other training offered



4. Chart C - There are also some sessions which have not yet been delivered, but Members have been invited to attend.

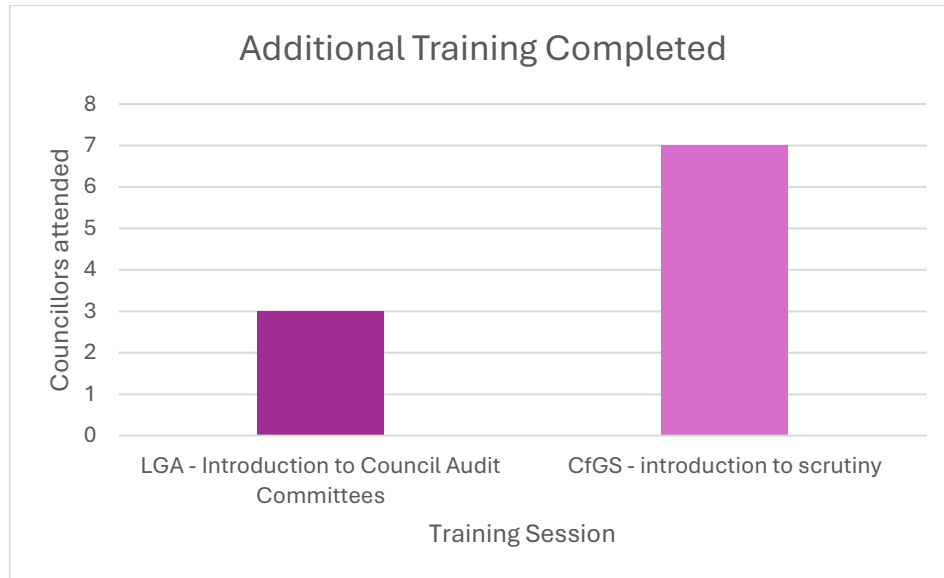
- Licensing Committee – mandatory for committee members
- Civic Coaching – for Lord Mayor and Deputy Lord Mayor
- Audit and Procurement Committee
- Chairs Training

Chart C - Bookings on Training yet to be Delivered



5. Chart D - Several Members have also attended additional training which has been offered from external providers. Members will continue to receive relevant training information from external organisations such as the LGA, LGiU.

Chart D - Supplementary Training Take-up



6. Future training – there are also several training events which have been arranged but not yet been circulated to Members, to avoid overload of information. The following sessions have been arranged:
- Data Protection for Members
  - Public Speaking
  - Scrutiny

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## Public Report Ethics Committee

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Ethics Committee

25 June 2026

**Name of Cabinet Member:**

N/A - Ethics Committee

**Director Approving Submission of the report:**

Director of Law, Governance and Safer Communities

**Ward(s) affected:**

None

**Title: Code of Conduct Update**

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**Is this a key decision?**

No

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**Executive Summary**

The report updates the Ethics Committee on any national issues in relation to the ethical behaviour of elected Members and the local position in Coventry with regard to Code of Conduct issues.

**Recommendations:-**

The Ethics Committee is recommended to:

1. Note the position with regard to matter concerning local authorities nationally; and
2. Note the local position relating to the operation of the Council's Code of Conduct and to delegate any actions arising from these to the Director of Law, Governance and Safer Communities, following consultation with the Chair of Ethics Committee.

**List of Appendices included**

None

**Other useful background papers**

None

**Has it been or will it be considered by Scrutiny?**

No

**Has it been or will it be considered by any other Council Committee, Advisory Panel or other body?**

No

**Will this report go to Council?**

No

## **Report title: Code of Conduct Update**

### **1. Context (or background)**

1.1 The Council's Ethics Committee has agreed that the Director of Law, Governance and Safer Communities will provide a regular update on cases relating to the Members' Code of Conduct on a national basis. This is to facilitate the Ethics Committee's role in assisting the Council with its duties under Section 27 of the Localism Act 2011 to promote and maintain high standards of Members' conduct.

### **1.2 The National Picture**

#### **1.2.1 Councillor Y; West Northamptonshire Council**

West Northamptonshire Council have concluded that one of their Councillor's is "likely to have" breached the local authority Members Code of Conduct. Whilst attending an International Women's Day event, Councillor Y is alleged to have said "some women should have never left the kitchen", after which a formal complaint was made.

Shortly after the Councillor issued an apology, which was taken into account by West Northamptonshire Council. The Council conducted an initial assessment and concluded that remedial action would be adequate to deal with the matter, with training on civility and respect to be arranged for the Councillor.

#### **1.2.2 Judicial Review against local authority allowed for Claimant who was prevented from asking a question at Full Council meeting**

A claimant seeking to challenge a decision made by The Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead by way of Judicial Review has been granted permission to do so.

The Claimant was subjected to sexual abuse during their time in a children's home belonging to the Berkshire County Council, (the governing local authority at the time). A settlement agreement was signed between the Council and its former employee which contains a confidentiality clause as to the terms of the said agreement. The Claimant in their application asserts that the agreement inhibited prosecution witnesses during criminal proceedings involving the former employee.

The application follows a decision made by the Council in July 2023 whereby the Claimant was denied the right to ask a supplementary question at a Full Council meeting on the basis that the local authority owes a duty of care to staff to protect them from harm stating that the Claimant may try to intimidate or harm staff. In the Council's defence to the claim they cited examples of the Claimant's conduct including where

they considered the Claimant to have become agitated and aggressive on previous occasions, including upon being afforded an opportunity to view the settlement agreement.

The Judge determined that the Claimant's conduct, including "corresponding in extensive, pejorative and potentially defamatory terms with elected representatives and officials and of making serious allegations of misconduct against members of the council" did not equate to sufficient reason to block the Claimant from asking the question in person or remotely.

The Judge exercised their discretion to extend the time limit for judicial review due to the issue concerning freedom of political speech and giving rise to issues of public interest.

When deciding the case, the Judge determined it to be "arguable with a realistic prospect of success that the Defendant's refusal to allow the Claimant his supplementary oral question, in person or via a remote video link, constituted a disproportionate interference in the Claimant's right to freedom of expression under Art 10" and granted permission for Judicial Review.

### **1.2.3 Two Councillors forced to resign due breaching election rules Councillors**

Having been newly elected in the 7 May 2026 elections Mr T and Mr N were subsequently forced to step down upon it being discovered that both Councillors were employed by their respective local authorities, which is a breach of the election rules.

Hackney London Borough Council employs Mr T as a teacher. As a result of the vacant seat, a by-election will be called.

Mr N is also a teacher employed by the Camden London Borough Council. He confirmed that he would resign. A by-election is anticipated to be held in July.

Under s80(1)(a) of the Local Government Act 1972, a person is disqualified from being elected or a candidate at Councillor elections to a particular local authority, if they hold paid office or employment of that local authority.

### **1.2.4 Councillor K; Leicester City Council**

In what was described as "disrespectful and designed to humiliate", Councillor K of Leicester City Council has been found to have breached the Code of Conduct in respect of a comment made towards another Councillor. During a Full Council meeting the Councillor is said to have "attacked the person not the issue by an irrelevant and unwarranted reference to his taking of Councillor's allowances"

The Standards Committee for the City Council recommended a written apology, that the findings be released through a press release and that training on the Code of Conduct is arranged for Councillor K.

#### **1.2.5 Former Councillor O; Cambridgeshire County Council**

Ahead of elections held in Cambridgeshire last year, Councillor O alleged in a social post that Councillor H, of Fenland District Council had “worked in the care industry but allegedly was sacked for fraud”. The post also implied that this was the reason an area in question was “in such a state” and said that the party that they represented would “fix it”. It transpired that whilst Councillor H does work in the care industry, the assertions were untrue.

It is reported that Councillor O claimed to have had his account hacked which was dismissed by the Judge. The Councillor was convicted of an offence under the Representation of the People Act 1983 for making or publishing a false statement. Under s106 of the Act, where a person makes or publishes a statement before or during an election, for the purpose of affecting the return of any candidate at the election, in relation to a candidate’s personal character or conduct, shall be guilty of illegal practice unless they are able to show they had reasonable grounds for believing, and did believe the statement to be true.

The Councillor was sentenced the following year in April 2026 to a fine by the Courts and ordered to pay costs. In absence of an appeal lodged within the time limit, the County Council has since confirmed that Councillor O is no longer a Councillor. A by-election will follow.

#### **1.2.6 Decision to grant planning permission quashed by High Court; North Devon District Council**

A High Court has ruled that a Councillor’s involvement in a planning decision made by North Devon District Council contributed to it being “tainted by apparent bias”.

A planning application was made to the Local Authority which had received several objections. It was called in for determination by Councillor P and subsequently granted.

Councillor P stated that prior to the application, he gave one of the applicants, procedural advice only via a telephone call when asked, which is in accordance with the Planning Code of Conduct.

One of the applicants is a former employee of the District Council, a fact known to Councillor P and his fellow Councillor and sibling, Councillor S. A witness claimed to have seen this applicant having a “long and amicable conversation” with a Committee Member thought to be Councillor S. The

other applicant and their family are known by Councillor P through mutual friends, though he does not consider the applicant to be a friend.

Upon the grant of the application, a resident who objected made a Judicial Review application. The application was heard in the High Court where the Judge presiding over the hearing stated that the “fair-minded observer, informed of the following matters, would conclude that there was a real possibility that the Decision was tainted by apparent bias.”

During the meeting Councillor P spoke well of one of the applicant’s family and stated that the Council should support local families and the Judge accepted that his views would likely “carry some weight among other members of the Planning Committee given his seniority as a Councillor”. He concluded that the decision was unlawful and ordered for it to be quashed on the grounds of inadequate reasons, irrationality and irrelevant considerations.

### **1.2.7 Councillor G; Hatfield Town Council**

Following a disciplinary hearing conducted by the City of Doncaster Council, a Member of Hatfield Town Council has been sanctioned for breaches of the Councillor’s Code of Conduct.

The Council considered complaints about Councillor G, concerning 3 provisions within the Code. One concerned a Facebook post whilst in the other it was alleged that Councillor G threatened to hit another Councillor with a gavel and also referenced “knocking some sense” into her.

The complaints were upheld and 7 sanctions were recommended including censure, to apologise in writing and undergo training.

### **1.2.8 Tendring District Council on Town and Parish Councils Members social media use**

Following a report considered by Tendring District Council’s Standards Committee, the Council has urged Town and Parish Councils to ensure Councillors are using social media responsibly and in accordance with guidance set out.

The District Council’s Monitoring Officer received a complaint regarding the alleged conduct of a Member in relation social media posts. The Monitoring Officer deemed the complaint to warrant investigation. After the investigator’s report but prior to the Sub-Committee hearing, the Councillor resigned.

Although unable to determine whether there had been a breach in that particular case, as a result of the issues pertaining social media use came to light.

The advice for Town and Parish Councils included becoming acquainted with social media guidance, for example that provided by the Local Government Association (LGA), ensuring policies and procedures are up to date and to deliver training.

The District Council also intends to assist by advising the Town and Parish Councils of the variety of tools they have available to support.

### 1.2.9 Councillor W; Leicestershire County Council

A Councillor has been found to have committed breaches of Leicestershire County Council's Code of Conduct due to his responses to residents who emailed about the hanging of St George's flags on lampposts.

The County Council considered 4 complaints and determined that for 3 of them, he had "used his official platform to shame and belittle members of the public for expressing concerns that he did not share." For the remaining complaint his first response was deemed "dismissive, personally insulting, and contributed to an environment that [the Complaint] reasonably perceived as intimidating. Upon becoming aware of the complaint, the Councillor contacted the Complainant, to inform them that they were one "causing division", that others shared his view and had asked for the Complainant's details to "make it clear how they feel" and implied he may feel the need to provide the details. The Panel considered this behaviour constituted "bullying".

For this conduct Councillor W was found to have breached 4 paragraphs of the Code. The Member Conduct Panel imposed sanctions including censure and a public apology to be read out at a Full Council meeting.

Councillor W was also found to have breached the Code in failing to register an interest, but no further action was taken in relation to this technical breach.

## 1.3 The Local Picture

Complaints under the Code of Conduct:

- 1.3.1 The Ethics Committee has requested that the Director of Law, Governance and Safer Communities reports regularly on any complaints received relating to Members of Coventry City Council.

Since the last Committee meeting held in March 2026, the Director of Law, Governance and Safer Communities has received 6 complaints regarding 9 Councillors at the time of writing this report. There is 1 Parish Council complaint which relates to 2 Councillors with the others about Members of the City Council.

The Parish Council complaint was dealt with at Stage 1 with no further action recommended. Of the City Council complaints, 1 was concluded by way of no further action, the others remain at Stage 1.

None of these complaints were Member on Member.

- 1.3.2 The Director of Law, Governance and Safer Communities will update the Committee on any further complaints received before the meeting and progress on those already received.

All complaints are handled in accordance with the agreed Complaints Protocol. No findings have been made by the Local Government Ombudsman in relation to Members of Coventry City Council

## **2. Recommended proposal**

The Ethics Committee are recommended to:

1. Note the position with regard to matters concerning local authorities nationally; and
2. Note the local position relating to the operation of Council's Code of Conduct and to delegate any actions arising from these to the Director of Law, Governance and Safer Communities, in consultation with the Chair of the Ethics Committee.

## **3. Results of consultation undertaken**

Not applicable.

## **4. Timetable for implementing this decision**

Not applicable.

## **5. Comments from Director of Finance and Resources and the Director of Law, Governance and Safer Communities**

### **5.1 Financial Implications**

There are no specific financial implications arising from the recommendations within this report.

### **5.2 Legal Implications**

There are no specific legal implications arising from this report. The issues referred to in this report will assist the Council in complying with its obligations under Section 27 of the Localism Act 2011.

**6. Other implications**

None.

**6.1 How will this contribute to the One Coventry Plan**

Not applicable.

**6.2 How is risk being managed?**

There is no direct risk to the organisation as a result of the contents of this report.

**6.3 What is the impact on the organisation?**

No direct impact at this stage.

**6.4 Equalities/ EIA**

There are no public sector equality duties which are of relevance at this stage.

**6.5 Implications for (or impact on) climate change and the environment**

None.

**6.6 Implications for partner organisations?**

None at this stage.

**Report author(s):**

**Name and job title:** Shanita Manhertz, Trainee Solicitor

**Directorate:** Law, Governance and Safer Communities

**Contact details:** 024 7697 2350; [Shanita.Manhertz@coventry.gov.uk](mailto:Shanita.Manhertz@coventry.gov.uk)

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Councillor A Hopkins	Chair of Ethics Committee		12/06/2026	15/06/2026

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Ethics Committee

25 June, 2026

**Name of Cabinet Member:**

N/A- Ethics Committee

**Director Approving Submission of the report:**

Director of Law, Governance and Safer Communities

**Ward(s) affected:**

Not applicable

**Title:**

**Work Programme for the Ethics Committee 2026/27**

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**Is this a key decision?**

No

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**Executive Summary:**

This report details the Work Programme for Ethics Committee for the Municipal Year 2026/27. The Committee is asked to consider the Work Programme and make any suggestions for additional or alternative reports.

**Recommendations:**

The Ethics Committee is recommended to review the Work Programme for 2026/27 attached as Appendix 1 and make any changes or amendments the Committee considers appropriate.

**List of Appendices included:**

Appendix 1 - Work Programme

**Other useful background papers:**

None

**Has it been or will it be considered by Scrutiny?**

No

**Has it been or will it be considered by any other Council Committee, Advisory Panel or other body?**

No

**Will this report go to Council?**

No

## **Report title: Work Programme for the Ethics Committee 2026/27**

### **1. Context (or background)**

- 1.1 The Committee's Terms of Reference are set out in the Council's Constitution and include the consideration of matters which are relevant to the ethical governance of the Council, its Members or employees. This report details a programme of work for the Committee for the Municipal Year 2026/27, designed to assist the Committee to meet its objectives set out in the Terms of Reference, and to ensure that the Council complies with its obligations under section 27 of the Localism Act 2011 to promote and maintain high standards of conduct amongst elected and co-opted Members.
- 1.2 The Committee's Work Programme takes account of the need to promote standards and addresses this in a number of ways. The Work Programme is flexible in terms of suggestions from members of the Ethics Committee as to additional or substitute areas which they would want to consider and receive reports on.

### **2. Options considered and recommended proposal**

- 2.1 The Work Programme includes regular items on:
  - Code of Conduct/ Monitoring Officer Update
  - Declarations of gifts and hospitality by Members and Officers
  - Annual report to full Council
  - Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman's Annual Report
- 2.2 In addition, the Ethics Committee factor into the Work Programme a number of matters where work is being, or about to be, undertaken across the Council. This includes continuing work on Civility in Public Life and the provision of training for Members.
- 2.3 The Committee is asked to consider whether there are any other matters that they would want to consider during the year.

#### **2.4 Recommendation**

The Ethics Committee is recommended to review the Work Programme attached as Appendix 1 and make any changes or amendments the Committee considers appropriate.

### **3. Results of consultation undertaken**

None

### **4. Timetable for implementing this decision**

- 4.1 Not applicable

**5. Comments from the Director of Finance and Resources and the Director of Law, Governance and Safer Communities**

**5.1 Financial implications**

There are no specific financial implications arising from the recommendations within this report.

**5.2 Legal implications**

There are no specific legal implications arising from this report, as there is no statutory obligation on the Committee to adopt a Work Programme. However, the Council must comply with its obligations under section 27 of the Localism Act 2011 and the continuation of a clear programme of work would assist in compliance for the Council as a whole, in its duty to promote high standards of ethical conduct.

**6. Other implications**

None

**6.1 How will this contribute to achievement of the One Coventry Plan?**

Not applicable.

**6.2 How is risk being managed?**

There is no direct risk to the organisation as a result of the contents of this report.

**6.3 What is the impact on the organisation?**

If implemented, the Work Programme will facilitate the promotion of high standards amongst elected Members in accordance with the Localism Act.

**6.4 Equalities / EIA**

There are no public sector equality duties which are of relevance at this stage.

**6.5 Implications for (or impact on) climate change and the environment**

None

**6.6 Implications for partner organisations?**

None at this stage

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Cllr A Hopkins	Chair: Ethics Committee		09/06/26	09/06/26

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## Work Programme for the Ethics Committee - Municipal Year 2026/27

<b>Ethics Committee Meeting and date</b>	<b>Topics</b>
<b>2026/7</b>	
<b>1. 25 June, 2026</b>	
	Monitoring Officer/Code of Conduct/ Members Complaints Update
	Annual Report of the Committee
	New Members Induction - Interim Update for Ethics Report
	Standards and Conduct Framework for Local Authorities - Update
	Work Programme 2026/27
<b>2. 24 September, 2026</b>	
	Monitoring Officer/Code of Conduct/ Members Complaints Update
	Officers Gifts and Hospitality - Inspection of Registers for first 6 months of 2026
	Local Code of Corporate Governance
	Members Gifts and Hospitality -Declarations for first 6 months of 2026
	Local Government Association (LGA) Ending Abuse in Public Life – Council Self-Assessment Tool Kit – Progress
	Review of the effectiveness of the work undertaken in relation to the Prospective Councillor Information
	Work Programme 2026/27
<b>3. 7 January, 2027</b>	
	Monitoring Officer/Code of Conduct/ Members Complaints Update
	Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman Annual Report
	Review of the effectiveness of the work undertaken in relation to the New Member Induction Programme 2026
	Work Programme 2026/27
<b>4. 18 March 2027</b>	
	Monitoring Officer/Code of Conduct/ Members Complaints Update.
	Members Gifts and Hospitality - Declarations for last 6 months of 2026
	Officers Gifts and Hospitality - Inspection of Registers for last 6 months of 2026
	Member Training and Development Review 2026/27
	Work Programme 2027/28



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