

STANDARDS AND ADJUDICATION COMMITTEE

DATE	15 th July 2026
REPORT OF	Monitoring Officer
SUBJECT	Elected Member Attendance
STATUS	Open

CONTRIBUTION TO OUR AIMS

Good governance, transparency and accountability contribute directly to the achievement of the Council's strategic aims.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report presents an overview of Elected Member attendance at formal meetings of the Council.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the publication of Elected Member attendance at formal meetings of the Council, as set out in the appendix to this report, be approved.

REASONS FOR DECISION

Publication of councillor attendance promotes transparency and demonstrates to the public how councillors actively engage in their role.

1. BACKGROUND AND ISSUES

- 1.1 Details of Elected Member attendance at formal meetings of the Council have been published on the Council's website for a number of years. Presenting this information to the Standards and Adjudication Committee provides an opportunity for Members to comment on how the information is presented.
- 1.2 The figures presented in the appendix to this report are based on actual attendance at formal meetings during the 2025/26 Municipal Year. The information does not include sub committees such as Licensing Sub Committee which are chosen from a pool of committee members. Nor does it include working groups, partnership boards or outside body appointments.
- 1.3 The figures take no account of whether apologies were given or substitutes subsequently appointed. Clearly there are valid reasons for Members not being able to attend meetings and this is referenced on the Council's web site as follows:

'Non-attendance may be due to a number of factors such as illness, work

commitments and holidays. For Panel and Committee meetings, Members are able to appoint substitutes if they are unable to attend for any reason.

Please note that these statistics do not include additional attendance requirements such as Cabinet member attendance at scrutiny meetings or councillors attending in their ward councillor role to make representations on behalf of their constituents, for example, to speak at Planning Committee meetings.'

- 1.4 The committee's views are welcomed on the appropriateness of this wording. It is noteworthy that some Members are required to attend other meetings occasionally conflicting with the Council's own meetings, for example, the Greater Lincolnshire Combined Authority audit and scrutiny committees. This is not currently referenced on the above wording on the Council's website.
- 1.5 The committee is asked to approve the publication of this information in the interest of transparency and accountability.

2. RISKS, OPPORTUNITIES AND EQUALITY ISSUES

There are a number of risks associated with the publication of attendance records. Raw attendance figures can be misleading as councillors may attend other duties or be on leave or be absent from duties for health reasons. Accompanying contextual information is therefore important. It is acknowledged that certain groups may be disproportionately affected by publication, such as councillors with disabilities, those with caring responsibilities and councillors also having to balance employment responsibilities.

3. OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

None.

4. REPUTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS CONSIDERATIONS

Low attendance may trigger public criticism and media attention but transparency and accountability are equally important considerations. If poorly presented, data may undermine trust in councillors unnecessarily and create misleading league tables or comparisons. Therefore, it is important to be consistent in reporting methods.

5. FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

There are no direct financial considerations arising from the content of the annual report.

6. CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE IMPLICATIONS

There are no direct implications for children and young people arising from the recommendations in this report.

7. CLIMATE CHANGE, NATURE RECOVERY AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no direct climate change and environmental implications arising from the recommendations in this report.

8. PUBLIC HEALTH, HEALTH INEQUALITIES AND MARMOT IMPLICATIONS

There are no direct public health, health inequalities and Marmot implications arising from the recommendations in this report.

9. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

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

10. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no direct legal implications arising from the recommendations in this report.

11. HUMAN RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS

There are no human resources implications arising from the recommendations in this report.

12. WARD IMPLICATIONS

All wards are affected.

13. BACKGROUND PAPERS

None.

14. CONTACT OFFICER(S)

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