

10.1 Independent Reports on Code of Conduct Complaints

Report To:	Council
Meeting Date:	Thursday, 26 February 2026
Author:	Susan Law
Author Title:	Chief Executive
Authorised by:	Chief Executive

Purpose

To provide Council with the independent investigator's code of conduct complaint reports for Council decision.

Recommendation

That the Council:

- a. Receive and note the 12 February 2026 independent investigator's report relating to a code of conduct complaint raised by Cr Latinovic against the Mayor.
- b. Receive and note the 18 February 2026 independent investigator's report relating to a code of conduct complaint raised by Cr Latinovic against the Mayor.
- c. Notes that the 18 February 2026 report deals with the complaint raised against the Mayor and recognises that issues of performance of the Chief Executive should be referred to the Chief Executive Relationship Committee.
- d. Makes a determination in terms of the recommendations within the reports.

Executive Summary

The Chief Executive engaged independent investigator, Mark Abbot, to investigate and report on two code of conduct complaints raised by Cr Latinovic against the Mayor.

Councillors should take note of the specific findings in relation to the complaint as well as the general comments made by the independent investigator.

Council needs to determine what action, if any, to take in relation to the report.

Context

Independent Investigation Report on Code of Conduct Complaint (Cr Latinovic against Mayor Petley) - 12 February 2026

Cr Latinovic raised a code of conduct complaint against Mayor Petley on **5 January 2026** relating to the Mayor's conduct with a member of the public on social media. In accordance with the code of conduct, the Chief Executive engaged independent investigator, Mark Abbot, to undertake investigation and review of the complaint, and to present findings and recommendations to Council on next steps. The report for these findings is attached for reference.

Independent Investigation Report on Code of Conduct Complaint (Cr Latinovic against Mayor Petley) - 18 February 2026

Cr Latinovic raised a further code of conduct complaint against Mayor Petley on **10 February 2026** relating to the Mayor's governance in implementing Council's resolution to have open/livestreamed

workshops. To save on full and further costs, a second report was prepared by Mark Abbot to address matters raised in this complaint as they segued from issues raised in the first complaint.

The total cost of the reports provided by the independent investigator is \$3,750 (GST excluded).