

**STANDARDS COMMITTEE – 3<sup>RD</sup> APRIL 2009**

**ADDENDUM REPORT OF THE HEAD OF LEGAL AND DEMOCRATIC  
SERVICES AND MONITORING OFFICER**

**INDEX OF REPORT ITEMS**

**PART 1 – Doc. Code: STDS-030409-REP-FS-DM-U**

**SECTION A – MATTERS FOR DECISION**

<b>Report Item</b>	<b>Page Nos</b>	<b>Wards Affected</b>
1) Grant of Dispensations Councillor Governors.	2-3	ALL

**ITEM No. 1**  
**PART 1 SECTION A**

**Grant of Dispensations Councillor Governors**

**Purpose of Report**

To seek the views of the Standards Committee on the grant of dispensations.

**Introduction**

Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council acting as local education authority in common with many other education authorities is reviewing its school provision with a view to modernising facilities. This review is being conducted in a context of falling school rolls.

Under the previous Code of Conduct many Members who are school governors had to seek dispensations to deal with education matters generally. In my oral presentation to Standards Committee I shall explain in greater depth the provisions of the current Code. It is sufficient to say that the current Code creates some anomalies which I consider would be best dealt with by the granting of a dispensation.

It is clear that reports will come before Members in various venues i.e. Cabinet, Overview and Scrutiny and Council which will deal with policy issues overall. From time to time some of these reports will mention individual schools but always in the context of a general policy being developed which is known as the Strategic Schools Improvement Programme.

**Recommendation**

I would recommend to Members of the Standards Committee that a general dispensation allowing Members to speak and vote on education issues including the Strategic Schools Improvement Programme.

This dispensation would apply to all Members who are school governors whether appointed by the Authority or not.

The grounds on which this dispensation could be granted under the Standards Committees (Grant of Dispensations) (Wales) Regulations 2001 are:-

- (d) the nature of the member's interest is such that the member's participation in the business to which the interest relates would not damage public confidence in the conduct of the relevant authority's business;

- (f) the participation of the member in the business to which the interest relates is justified by the member's particular role or expertise;

In relation to matters before an Overview and Scrutiny Committee it is also considered that the following reason is applicable:-

- (g) the business to which the interest relates is to be considered by an overview and scrutiny committee of the relevant authority and the member's interest is not a pecuniary interest;

### **Reason for Decision**

To place all school governors on a like footing in the conduct of local authority business.

This dispensation will be considered for renewal with other dispensations in May if the other recommendations of this report are accepted.

### **List of Background Papers**

None

### **Officer Contact**

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### **Wards Affected**

All