

**STANDARDS COMMITTEE - 15<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2013**

**FINANCE AND CORPORATE SERVICES**

**URGENT REPORT OF THE HEAD OF LEGAL  
SERVICES/MONITORING OFFICER**

**- D.MICHAEL**

**INDEX OF REPORT ITEM**

**Part 1 - Doc. Code: STDS-150313-REP-FS-DM-U**

<b>SECTION A - MATTER FOR DECISION – URGENT ITEM</b>			
	<b>Report Item</b>	<b>Page Nos.</b>	<b>Wards affected</b>
1.	Grant of Dispensations under Section 81(4) Local Government Act 2000		All

**ITEM 1**  
**PART 1 SECTION A**

**REQUEST FOR GRANT OF DISPENSATIONS:**

- 1. Strategic Schools Improvement Programme**
- 2. Proposed Changes to School Transport Arrangements**

1.1 As Members will be aware, the Committee has granted a general dispensation to all Councillors who are school governors allowing them to speak and vote on education matters generally but more particularly the Strategic Schools Improvement Programme.

1.2 A number of cases have arisen where Councillors find that they have personal interests aside their role as school governor. The meeting of Standards Committee of 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2012 received an application from Councillor Alun Llewelyn. I reproduce for Members two paragraphs from the report on Councillor Llewelyn's application:

“(i) As with all the County Borough Council Members who are also School Governors Councillor Llewelyn benefits from the grant of general dispensation which also appears on this agenda. Councillor Llewelyn's particular problem is that, whilst he is the local Member and wishes to represent the interest of his constituents in Overview and Scrutiny Committee he has an interest in that he is presently the parent of a child at Ysgol Gyfun Ystalyfera. Whilst this is an individual application from Councillor Llewelyn, it is a fairly common situation where Members of Overview and Scrutiny Committee have children or grandchildren attending a particular school under discussion.

(ii) I have reproduced for Members the application from Councillor Llewelyn as it stands. I will advise at the meeting on the potential consequences of this type of application and the relevant criteria. It is certainly argument that there is a balance to be struck here between the declaration of interests giving transparency in decision making and the need to ensure that local Members can represent the views of their constituents “

1.3 The Standards Committee decided to grant a dispensation in favour of Councillor Alun Llewelyn in the circumstances set out in Regulation 2(d)(e) and (g) of the Standards Committees (Grant of Dispensations) (Wales) Regulations 2001 for Councillor Llewelyn to speak only and not vote on Strategic Schools Improvement Programme matters.

- 1.4 I have now received some applications from Councillors who have grandchildren in schools affected by the Strategic Schools Improvement Programme. These applications are set out in the table attached to this report.
- 1.5 The second issue which I need to refer to Standards Committee is the forthcoming report to Cabinet on home to school transport. The issues covered in the report are complex but may be summarised as follows: it is proposed that school transport to a Faith School no longer be provided free of charge and that a charge be levied for post 16 school transport. Clearly there will be a number of Members affected by this proposal or whose families would be affected.
- 1.6 The issue of home to school transport is undoubtedly one which affects particular families but that impact is shared with all other families in a similar position. Also, in the debate on this issue, it is perhaps undesirable that the voices of many Members would be lost.
- 1.7 I will prepare recommendations to Standards Committee which will be given orally on the morning.

**Schedule of Application  
for Dispensations**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Nature of Interest</b>	<b>Issue</b>	<b>Speak or Vote</b>
Cllr. Sandra Miller	Governor – Grandchildren of school age	School Improvement/ School Transport	Speak only
Cllr. John Miller	Governor – Grandchildren of school age	School Improvement/ School Transport	Speak only
Cllr. Sheila Penry	Governor – Grandchildren of school age	School Improvement/ School Transport	Speak only
Cllr. Arthur Davies	School Governor	School Improvement/ School Transport	Speak only
Cllr. Mike James	Taxi Proprietor	School Transport	Speak only
Cllr. John Rogers	Grandchildren of school/college age	School Transport	Speak only
Cllr. Anthony J. Taylor	Children of school age	School Improvement	Speak and vote
Cllr. Alan Carter	School Governor	School Improvement/ School Transport	Speak only
Cllr. Eirion Richards	School Governor	School Improvement/ School Transport	Speak only