

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

(Civic Centre, Port Talbot)

Members Present:

13th July, 2007

Chairman: Mr. R.Gwyn Davies

Vice Chairman: Mr.D.Pickrell

NPTCBC Member: Councillor J.D.Edwards

**Community
Committee Member:** Councillor H.Thomas

Officers in Attendance: D.Michael and Miss A.M.Farrell

1. **MRS JILL BURGESS**

The Committee was informed that Mrs Jill Burgess, Independent Member of the Standards Committee, had offered her apologies for this meeting due to a family bereavement. The Chairman and Committee Members extended their deepest condolences to Mrs Burgess and her family at this sad time.

2. **COMPOSITION OF COMMITTEE**

In order to comply with the Standards Committee regulations for this Committee that at least one half of the members present at the meeting shall be Independent Members, Councillor J.Dinham - NPTCBC Member, agreed to withdraw from the meeting.

3. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

RESOLVED: that the Minutes of the undermentioned meeting of the Committee, be approved:

23rd March, 2007.

Report of the Monitoring Officer

4. **APPLICATIONS IN RESPECT OF A GRANT OF DISPENSATION
TO LOCAL COUNCILLORS AS SCHOOL GOVERNORS**

RESOLVED: that the Councillors listed in the above circulated report, and as set out in Appendix 1 hereto, be granted a dispensation to vote* at meetings of the Council and its Committees, on matters where those Councillors have an interest as Governors, subject to the Terms and Conditions specified in the above reports – these dispensations to expire on 31st March 2008.

***Note:** Under the Members' Code of Conduct, Members may speak but not vote, therefore the dispensation required is for voting only.

5. **APPLICATIONS FOR A GRANT OF DISPENSATION
RECEIVED RELATIVE TO EMPLOYMENT – NEATH PORT
TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL MEMBERS IN
RESPECT OF MEMBERS OF THEIR FAMILY EMPLOYED BY
THE COUNCIL**

RESOLVED: that the individual Members of Council, as given in Appendix 1 hereto, be granted dispensation to speak and vote at meetings of the Council and its Committees, in respect of the matters given in the above circulated report (as summarised in Appendix 1), subject to the Terms and Conditions set out in the reports – these dispensations to expire on 31st March 2008.

6. **APPLICATIONS IN RESPECT OF A GRANT OF DISPENSATION BY COUNCILLORS WHO ARE MEMBERS OF NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL'S SCRUTINY COMMITTEES**

RESOLVED: that the Members of the Council's Scrutiny Committees, as set out in Appendix 2 hereto, be granted dispensation to speak and vote on issues relating to the business of the Council as described in the above circulated report, subject to the Terms and Conditions specified in the report – these dispensations to expire on 31st March 2008.

7. **APPLICATION IN RESPECT OF A REGRANT OF DISPENSATION SPECIFIC TO INDIVIDUAL COUNTY BOROUGH MEMBER**

RESOLVED: that the Councillor listed below, be regranted his individual dispensation as set out in the above circulated report, subject to the Terms and Conditions originally specified by the Standards Committee - this dispensation to expire on the 31st March 2008:-

Councillor C.J.Crowley
- Trustee – New Sandfields (Speak and Vote).

8. **REVIEW OF MEMBERS' CODE OF CONDUCT**

The Committee received the Deputy Monitoring Officer's report in respect of the above Code of Conduct. It was noted that the Model Code was presently being considered by a group comprising of Monitoring Officers in the form of a draft Statutory Instrument of the National Assembly. The draft contained some quite fundamental changes: it imparts the concept of "prejudicial interest" from the English Code and would make compulsory the present voluntary standing register of Members' interests.

The Deputy Monitoring Officer would submit a further report, outlining the changes, in due course.

RESOLVED: that the above report be noted.

9. **MONITORING OFFICER**

The Committee was informed that until recently, Mr David Michael had been acting as Deputy Monitoring Officer. It was noted that, pending any decision on a permanent appointment, Mr Michael had now been appointed Monitoring Officer on a temporary basis.

RESOLVED: that the report be noted.

10. **APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT MEMBERS**

The Committee noted that, before the next meeting of the Standards Committee in November 2007, the recruitment and selection process for the appointment of Independent Members for a new term of office (as from Spring 2008) on the Standards Committee would commence. The first steps would include the newspaper advertisement and the appointment of a Selection Panel. Members would be kept informed of the progress.

CHAIRMAN

APPENDIX 1

DISPENSATIONS FOR COUNCILLORS WHO ARE ALSO SCHOOL GOVERNORS

Councillor C.J.Crowley	Councillor D.W.Davies
Councillor M.I.Jones	Councillor D.Lewis
Councillor H.T.Lewis	Councillor B.Roblin
Councillor P.M.Thomas	Councillor J.C.Tallamy
Councillor J.R.Bryant*	

Notes:

- (1) *New application approved
- (2) Changes taken into account: Councillor C.J.Crowley – no longer Chairperson of Tywyn Primary School.

DISPENSATIONS RELATIVE TO EMPLOYMENT BY THE AUTHORITY

Councillor	Relative	Employing Directorate/Body
Councillor D.W.Davies	Sister-in-law	Education
Councillor D.Lewis*	Daughter	Joint Local Authority Project – 1 year fixed term contract (NPT acting host employer)

Note: *New application approved

APPENDIX 2

DISPENSATIONS FOR MEMBERS ON THE COUNCIL'S SCRUTINY COMMITTEES

POLICY AND RESOURCES
Councillors †D.W.Davies (Chairperson), †M.I.Jones, *C.J.Crowley, <i>E.Loaring</i> .
CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND EDUCATION
Councillors <i>E.V.Latham, Mrs. S.M.Penry, Mrs. P.J.Thomas, Mrs. L.G.Williams</i> .
Children's Service Scrutiny Sub Committee
Councillors <i>Mrs. L.G.Williams</i> .
ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY REGENERATION
Councillors †M.I.Jones (Chairperson), *D.W.Davies, <i>Mrs. P.J.Thomas, Mrs. L.G.Williams</i> .
ENVIRONMENT AND HIGHWAYS
Councillors *J.R.Bryant, *B.Roblin, <i>E.Loaring (Chairperson)</i> .
SOCIAL CARE, HEALTH AND HOUSING
Councillors *C.J.Crowley(Chairperson), *H.T.Lewis, *J.C.Tallamy, *T.J.Sullivan, <i>E.V.Latham, Mrs.M.A.Lewis, Mrs. S.M.Penry (Vice Chair)</i> .

Notes:

- (1) †Re-applications approved
- (2) *New applications approved
- (3) *Italics – current Scrutiny Committees following Annual Meeting of Council - applications approved.*