

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

(Committee Room 1/2 - Port Talbot Civic Centre)

Members Present:

9 July 2019

Chairperson: C.L.Jones

Independent Members: L.Fleet and T.Ward

NPTCBC Members: **Councillors** S.E.Freeguard and D.Keogh

Community Committee Members: A.Carter

Officers In Attendance: C.Griffiths and T.Davies

Apology: B.Richards

1. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

The following Members made declarations of interest at the commencement of the meeting:

Councillor D.Keogh - Report of the Head of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer – Item 3 – Grant of Dispensations under Section 81 (4) Local Government Act 2000 – as he is a beneficiary of general dispensation for governors of Neath Port Talbot Schools; car parking for Staff and Members and has family members or close relationships with individuals who benefit in some way in respect of School Transport.

Councillor S.Freeguard - Report of the Head of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer – Item 3 – Grant of Dispensations under Section 81 (4)

Local Government Act 2000 – as she is a beneficiary of car parking for Staff and Members of the Authority and as her sister-in-law works for Cleaning Services.

Clifford Jones

- Report of the Head of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer – Item 3 – Grant of Dispensations under Section 81 (4) Local Government Act 2000 – as Councillor D.Cawsey is his wife’s nephew.

Alan Carter

- Report of the Head of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer – Item 3 – Grant of Dispensations under Section 81 (4) Local Government Act 2000 – as he is a School Governor at Crynallt Primary School, and Item 5 – Referral from the Ombudsman – as he is a Member of Neath Town Council.

2. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the previous meeting held on the 16 May, 2019 be confirmed as a true and accurate record of the proceedings.

3. **GRANT OF DISPENSATIONS AND RENEWAL OF GRANTS UNDER SECTION 81 (4) LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2000**

Members noted that the requests for dispensations under consideration at today’s meeting, if granted, would run until the remainder of this elected Council, until the first meeting of the Standards Committee following the Council Annual Meeting in 2022.

The Head of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer informed Members of a slight amendment to the circulated report (page 21) within the Miscellaneous Dispensation schedule, Councillor S.Freeguard no longer needed the dispensation relating to Abertawe Bro Morgannwg University Health Board.

Members considered renewals and applications received for dispensations relating to employment; school governors; school transport; school reorganisation matters; school admissions policies; staff and Member car parking; miscellaneous dispensations and voluntary sector funding, as detailed in the circulated report.

(At this point in the meeting C.Jones and Councillor S.Freeguard reaffirmed their interests and withdrew from the meeting for the discussion and voting thereon)

- RESOLVED:**
- (a) That the applications for dispensations relating to Employment set out in paragraph 13 to the circulated report, be approved for those Members listed in paragraph 16 to the circulated report, to speak and vote, and that the dispensations run to the Standards Committee which follows the Annual Meeting of Council, 2022;

(At this point in the meeting C.Jones and Councillor S.Freeguard rejoined the meeting, and A.Carter and Councillor D.Keogh reaffirmed their interests and withdrew from the meeting for the discussion and voting thereon)

- (b) that a general dispensation to speak and vote on all education matters as a result of appointment as a School Governor be further granted until the Standards Committee which follows the Annual Meeting of Council, 2022;

(At this point in the meeting A.Carter rejoined the meeting, while Councillor D.Keogh remained outside for this item)

- (c) that a general dispensation to speak and vote on all School Transport matters be granted until the Standards Committee which follows the Annual Meeting of Council, 2022, provided they do not directly financially advantage or disadvantage or give other direct benefit or disbenefit to a Member or the Member's family who is employed by the County Borough Council;

(At this point in the meeting Councillor D.Keogh rejoined the meeting)

- (d) that the Applications for dispensations relating to School Reorganisation matters as set out in paragraph 29 to the circulated report, be approved for those Members listed in paragraph 31 to the circulated report, to speak but not vote, and that the dispensations run to the Standards Committee which follows the Annual Meeting of Council, 2022;
- (e) that a general dispensation be granted to all Members to speak and vote on all School Admission Policies until the Standards Committee which follows the Annual Meeting of Council, 2022;

(At this point in the meeting Councillors S.Freeguard and D.Keogh reaffirmed their interests and withdrew from the meeting for the discussion and voting thereon)

- (f) that a general dispensation be granted to all Members to speak and vote on all Staff and Member Car Parking until the Standards Committee which follows the Annual Meeting of Council, 2022;

(At this point in the meeting Councillors S.Freeguard and D.Keogh rejoined the meeting)

- (g) That the applications for Miscellaneous dispensations as set out in paragraph 43 to the circulated report, be approved in the circumstances to speak or to speak and vote, as set out in the Schedule within the circulated report, and that the dispensations run to the Standards Committee which follows the Annual Meeting 2022;
- (h) that a general dispensation be further granted to the Member detailed within the circulated report to speak only on

voluntary/third sector matters, and that the dispensations cover all matters related to the funding for the voluntary/third sector - such dispensations to run to the Standards Committee which follows the Annual Meeting 2022.

4. **ACCESS TO MEETINGS**

RESOLVED: That pursuant to Section 100A(4) and (5) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded for the following item of business which involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 18c of Part 4 of Schedule 12A to the above Act.

5. **REFERRAL FROM THE OMBUDSMAN**

RESOLVED:

1. That Councillor S.M.'s conduct amounted to a breach, under Paragraph 6(1)(a) (in an official capacity or otherwise, bringing the office of Member or the Authority into disrepute) of the Code of Conduct.
2. That Councillor S.M. be invited to make submissions on what action the Standards Committee should take, including any mitigating factors.

CHAIRPERSON