

**NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**STANDARDS COMMITTEE**

**10 April 2019**

**REPORT OF THE HEAD OF LEGAL SERVICES – C.GRIFFITHS**

**MATTER FOR DECISION**

**WARDS AFFECTED: ALL**

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

**Purpose of Report**

**1.1. General**

- 1.1.1. Under Section 81(4) of the Local Government Act 2000 Standards Committees may grant dispensations to a Member of a relevant authority (including a Community Council) allowing the Member to participate in any business where that participation would otherwise be prohibited by the mandatory provisions of the Members' Code of Conduct.
- 1.1.2. The National Assembly for Wales in the Standards Committees (Grant of Dispensations) (Wales) Regulations 2001 sets out the circumstances in which these dispensations may be granted. The Standards Committee may only grant dispensations in the circumstances set out in the Regulations. In the report which follows, I set out the circumstances or grounds on which dispensations may be granted in each case.
- 1.1.3. The form of the report will generally set out the dispensation, the circumstances in which it may be granted and details of the applicant for the dispensation.
- 1.1.4. Under Paragraph 18 of The Code of Conduct (and the relevant Regulations) the Standards Committee may not consider granting a dispensation to an individual Member unless the Member seeking it has previously notified the Monitoring Officer of that interest together with the relevant details. In each of the requests below, the Member has notified the Monitoring Officer of that interest together with the relevant details.
- 1.1.5. In accordance with previous practice, it is suggested that all dispensations be granted until the first meeting of the Standards Committee following the Council Annual General Meeting in 2019 in order to ensure that they all come up for renewal at the same time.

## 1.2. Miscellaneous Dispensations

The Standards Committee has previously approved various dispensations to Members where they are members of voluntary organisations or organisations carrying out public functions where it is the wish of those Members to speak on Council business relating to those organisations and also, in some cases vote. All the other applications are applications for renewals. The subject of the dispensation and its extent varies in each case and therefore I have summarised the applications in the table which appears below.

### Circumstances for granting the Dispensations: Miscellaneous

#### 1.3.1. The circumstances 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”

Note: this paragraph derives from Regulation 2 of the Standards Committees (Grant of Dispensations) (Wales) Regulations 2001 and was the circumstance under which applications for dispensations of this sort were previously approved.

#### 1.3.2. Applications for Dispensations: Miscellaneous

Member	Subject of Dispensation	Extent of Requested Dispensation	Circumstances
Cllr. R. G. Jones	Matters relating to the Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE) as his wife is a recent appointment to the SACRE Committee	Speak and Vote	Reg 2 (d)

### Recommendation

- (1) That the applications for renewals of dispensations set out in paragraph 1.3.2. be approved in the circumstances set out in Regulation 2 (d) and (e) of the Standards Committee (Grant of Dispensations) (Wales) Regulations 2001 to speak or to speak and vote as set out in the Schedule above and that the dispensations run to the Standards Committee which follows the Annual Meeting 2019.

## 1.4. Background Papers

Exchange of emails on grant of dispensations for 2018/19.

1.5. **Wards Affected**

All

1.6. **Officer Contact**

For further information on this report please contact:-

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