

NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

26th July 2019

REPORT OF THE HEAD OF LEGAL SERVICES – MR 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.
- 1.1.3. 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 the request below, the Member has notified the Monitoring Officer of that interest together with the relevant details.
- 1.1.4. In accordance with previous practice, it is suggested that any dispensation 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. The subject of the dispensation and its extent varies in each case and therefore I have summarised the application 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 Flying Start Programme as his granddaughter now attends the Flying Start Programme in Sandfields	Speak and Vote	Reg 2 (d)

Recommendation

(1) That the application dispensation 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 and vote as set out in the Schedule above and that the dispensation run to the Standards Committee which follows the Annual Meeting 2022.

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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