

Record of Delegated Non-Executive Decisions by Officers

1. Subject of decision: Dispensations - Appointments to Outside Bodies

2. Delegation Reference:

SS4/24 - To agree the attached written request from Councillor A Newman for a dispensation relating to their appointment by the Authority to an outside body during 2023-24, under the authority granted to the Monitoring Officer by the Standards Sub-committee on 10 January 2024.

This decision has been delegated to one or more officer(s) under:

(a) A specific express authorisation (provide the date, report and decision of Council, Committee or Sub-Committee etc which delegated this to the specific officer(s))

(b) a general authorisation to take such decisions **and**, the effect of the decision is to:

(i) grant a permission or licence;

(ii) affect the rights of an individual; or

(iii) award a contract or incur expenditure which, in either case, materially affects the Authority's financial position.

3. Name and Title of Decision Maker

Stephen Ballantyne – Head of Law and Monitoring Officer

4. Details of any Conflict of Interest and any Dispensation granted in respect of such Interest

None

4. Executive Summary

On 10 January 2024, the Standards Sub-committee considered a report which set out requests for dispensations received from Members in relation to their appointment by the Authority to outside bodies.

The Sub-Committee agreed to:

- i. determine the requests for dispensation set out in Appendix 1 to the report.
- ii. grant authority to the Monitoring Officer to agree any further written requests from Members for a dispensation that relates to a registerable interest by virtue of their appointment by the Authority to an outside body during the municipal year for 2023-24.

7. Decision

To agree the dispensation requested submitted by Cllr A Newman as set out in the letter attached to this notice and which relates to a registerable interest by virtue of their appointment by the Authority to an outside body during the municipal year 2023-24.

8. Reasons for the Decision

At the beginning of each municipal year Members of the Council are appointed to various outside bodies by the Authority. These appointments are Registerable Personal Interests under the Authority's Code of Conduct for Members.

Those interests may be in relation to any item of business considered at an Authority meeting (including specifically in connection with an Authority budget setting meeting) and may mean that the criteria set out in paragraph 18 of the Code of Conduct may be satisfied requiring the Member to leave the meeting.

The Localism Act 2011 introduced a more generous regime of dispensations to that which existed under the previous arrangements for Members to speak and vote where Members have an interest that is such that it prevents them from participating in an item of business.

Members may be given a dispensation either to speak but not vote, or to speak and vote, on several grounds, including that it would be in the interests of local people to allow a dispensation, or even that it is simply "appropriate to grant a dispensation". Dispensations last for either 4 years or the date when the Member ceases to be the Authority's representative on the outside body, whichever is earlier.

Members have applied to seek dispensation from the requirements of the Code of Conduct, under Section 33(2)(e) of the Localism Act 2011 to enable them to speak and vote on any item of business to be considered at any Authority meeting in relation to the outside body to which they have been appointed.

The Standards Sub-committee granted delegated authority to the Monitoring Officer to agree any additional requests submitted after the meeting on 10 January 2024.

8. Date Decision Made

24 January 2024

To be completed by Democratic Services

9. Date of Publication

25 January 2024