

## STANDARDS COMMITTEE – 17TH NOVEMBER 2005

**SUBJECT: APPLICATIONS FOR DISPENSATION**

**REPORT BY: MONITORING OFFICER**

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### 1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To consider an application for dispensation from members of the Caerphilly Town Council.

### 2. LINKS TO STRATEGY

2.1 The authority acting through this capacity has an obligation to maintain high standards of probity and conduct throughout the authority and the community councils within the county borough area.

### 3. THE REPORT

3.1 The Clerk to the Caerphilly Town Council has made application on behalf of eight councillors of the Caerphilly Town Council for dispensation to allow members of the town council who declare an interest relating to membership of the Caerphilly and District Twinning Association, to continue to speak and vote at meetings of the community council in relation to matters affecting the Twinning Association.

3.2 The ground of the application is that at least one-half of the members of the authority have an interest which relates to that business.

3.3 The Caerphilly Town Council comprises 12 members and 8 of these are affected as either members of the Caerphilly and District Twinning Association or represent the town council on their management committee. The following are the affected members on whose behalf the application has been made:-

Councillor Huw Price  
Councillor Phil Bevan  
Councillor Una Patricia Newman  
Councillor Olwen Rees  
Councillor Jennifer Hibbert  
Councillor Mark Newman  
Councillor Ann Broughton-Pettit  
Councillor Geoffrey Hibbert

3.4 Declarations of interest have been signed by each of these members and so the necessary statutory requirements have been satisfied.

3.5 The application is to allow the affected members to continue to take part in town council business relating to the Caerphilly and District Twinning Association, in particular to allow the town council to deal with applications for financial assistance to the Twinning Association. The town clerk has explained that the town council has a long-standing association with the Twinning Association, having initially established the link but no longer has a leading role in

the running of the twinning organisation. The town council's members are however actively involved either as members of the association or representing the town council on the management committee of the association.

- 3.6 The levels of grants involved are in the order of £200 (occasionally up to £500). Members need to be aware that proposals for changes to the code of conduct will give a blanket dispensation for community councils to give grants up to £500 notwithstanding that the members involved might have an interest under the code.
- 3.7 I am satisfied therefore that more than 50% of the membership of the community council is affected and that if members are minded to grant a dispensation, it is appropriate to grant it on these grounds.

#### **4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 None.

#### **5. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 None.

#### **6. CONSULTATIONS**

- 6.1 There are no views which have not been reflected in this report.

#### **7. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 7.1 That members consider the application for dispensation to speak and to vote at all instances where matters relating to the Caerphilly and District Twinning Association are discussed at the Caerphilly Town Council.

#### **8. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 8.1 In order to comply with legislation and the terms of reference of this committee.

#### **9. STATUTORY POWER**

- 9.1 Local Government Act 2000 and Standards Committees (Grants of Dispensation) (Wales) Regulations 2001. This is a Council function delegated to this committee.

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Consultees: Chair - Standards Committee, Cabinet Member for Policy and Resources.

#### **Background Papers:**

There are no background papers other than published documents. Reference is made to the (public) register of members' interests held by the Monitoring Officer.