

STANDARDS COMMITTEE – 5TH JANUARY 2006

SUBJECT: APPLICATIONS FOR DISPENSATION

REPORT BY: MONITORING OFFICER

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To consider an application for dispensation from Councillor Michael Prew.

2. LINKS TO STRATEGY

- 2.1 The authority acting through this committee 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 Councillor Michael Prew a councillor of Caerphilly County Borough Council has made application for dispensation to allow him to speak and vote at any meetings of Caerphilly County Borough Council where issues relating to the future of St. Ilan School, Caerphilly are being discussed.
- 3.2 The application is made under ground (iv):-
- (iv) 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.
- 3.3 The Council is considering the future of the provision of secondary education within the county borough area and is considering whether to start a formal consultation on a proposal to close St. Ilan School, Caerphilly. The decision is likely to be taken at a Council meeting on the 10 January 2006.
- 3.4 Councillor Prew has signed the necessary declaration of interest showing that his interest falls under four headings:-
- (i) A governor of Plas-y-Felin School, which is a feeder school to St. Ilan;
- (ii) That he has been appointed as a governor of St. Ilan (but has yet to be confirmed in the post);
- (iii) That he has a niece who is a present pupil at the school;
- (iv) That he lives close to the site of the school (and that the proposed after-use of the site should the school be closed would impact upon his home).
- 3.5 In relation to (i) above, Councillor Prew would need to declare an interest because the school is affected by the proposals but the dispensation granted to all governors by this committee

would allow him to continue to speak and vote.

3.6 In relation to interest (ii) the dispensation granted by this committee would not cover this interest because the dispensation specifically excludes the situation where the issue under discussion relates to only the school where that person is a governor.

3.7 The other two interests are personal interests.

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 St. Ilan School, Caerphilly are discussed at Caerphilly County Borough 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.