



STANDARDS COMMITTEE – 21ST SEPTEMBER 2015

SUBJECT: APPLICATIONS FOR DISPENSATION - INFORMATION ITEM

REPORT BY: INTERIM MONITORING OFFICER

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To advise Members of the decision of the Chair and Independent Member, Mr. Lewis of the Standards Committee in relation to applications for dispensations made by Councillors.

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 To ask Members to note the decision of the Chair and Independent Member of the Standards Committee regarding the applications for dispensation set out in the report.

3. LINKS TO STRATEGY

- 3.1 The Authority acting through this Committee has an obligation to maintain high standard and probity and conduct throughout the Council and the Community Council within the County Borough area.

4. THE REPORT

- 4.1 County Borough Councillors Derek Havard, Anne Blackman, Wynne David, Phil Bevan, Judith Pritchard and Gaynor Oliver applied to the Standards Committee for a dispensation to enable them to participate fully in the Task and Finish Group set up by the Education for Life Scrutiny Committee to review Community Centres.
- 4.2 The Councillors named in paragraph 4.1 sought a specific dispensation from the Standards Committee to enable them to participate in the review of Community Centres due to their involvement on Management Committees of various Community Centres details of which are set out in paragraph 4.3 below.
- 4.3 The applications were made under the following grounds of the Standards Committee (Grant of Dispensation) (Wales) Regulation 2001:-
- Councillor Derek Havard, as former funding member of management committee of Graig Y Rhacca Community Centre, grounds (i) and (iii).
 - Councillor Anne Blackman, as Treasurer of Nelson Community Centre, grounds (iii), (iv), (vi), (vii) and (ix).
 - Councillor Wynne David, as member of management committees of Cascade Community Centre, Penybryn Village Hall, Glanynant Memorial Hall, Tiryberth Village Hall, grounds (i) and (vii).

- Councillor Phil Bevan, as member of management committee of Twyn Community Centre, grounds (i), (iii), (iv) and (v).
- Councillor Judith Pritchard, as member of management committee of Hengoed Community Centre, grounds (i), (iii), (iv) and (vi).
- Councillor Gaynor Oliver, as member of management committee of standby Pontlottyn Community Centre, grounds (i) and (iii).

4.4 The Councillors made written representations to support their applications and in addition Councillor Havard and Councillor Blackman addressed the Chair and Independent Member.

4.5 The Terms of Reference for the Task and Finish Group were outlined to the Chair and Independent Member with reference to the report presented to the Education for Life Scrutiny Committee on 20th May 2015. In addition Membership of the Task and Finish Group was explained and that six out of nine Members had declared an interest and without the six Members, the political balance of the Task and Finish Group would be affected.

4.6 In accordance with the provisions of the Council's Constitution an urgent meeting was convened on the 6th July, 2015 with the Chair and Independent Member of the Standards Committee to discuss the applications for dispensation. The Council's Interim Deputy Monitoring Officer, Corporate Solicitor and the Senior Scrutiny Research Officer were also in attendance.

4.7 The applications for dispensation was duly considered by the Chair and Independent Member and were granted to all six Members named in this Report on the following grounds:

- Councillor Derek Havard, as former funding member of management committee of Graig Y Rhacca Community Centre, grounds (i) and (iii).
- Councillor Anne Blackman, as Treasurer of Nelson Community Centre, grounds (iii) and (vi).
- Councillor Wynne David, as member of management committees of Cascade Community Centre, Penybryn Village Hall, Glanynant Memorial Hall, Tiryberth Village Hall, grounds (i).
- Councillor Phil Bevan, as member of management committee of Twyn Community Centre, grounds (i), (iii) and (v).
- Councillor Judith Pritchard, as member of management committee of Hengoed Community Centre, grounds (i), (iii) and (vi).
- Councillor Gaynor Oliver, as member of management committee of standby Pontlottyn Community Centre, grounds (i) and (iii).

4.8 The dispensations granted were to undertake the review by the Task and Finish Group only. Any subsequent involvement by Members in the review of Community Centres would require fresh applications for dispensation.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 None.

6. PERSONAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 None.

7. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

7.1 None.

8. CONSULTATIONS

8.1 None this report has been prepared for information only.

9. STATUTORY POWERS

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

Author: Lisa Lane, Corporate Solicitor
For Information Only: Chris Burns, Interim Chief Executive
Gail Williams, Interim Head of Legal Services/Monitoring Officer
Angharad Price, Interim Deputy Monitoring Officer
Mrs. Holdroyd, Chair - Caerphilly Standards Committee
Cath Forbes-Thomson Senior Scrutiny Research Officer