

**Minutes of the meeting of the Dispensations Sub-Committee  
held on 10 August 2015**

**Present:**

**Members:** Councillor John Horner  
Councillor Philip Johnson  
Councillor Clive Rickhards

**Officers:** Jane Pollard, Legal Services Manager  
Janet Purcell, Democratic Services Manager

**1. General**

**(1) Apologies**

There were no apologies for absence.

**(2) Appointment of Chair**

The Sub-Committee agreed that Councillor Philip Johnson be appointed Chair.

**(3) Minutes of the meeting of the Dispensations Sub-Committee held on 13 June 2013**

The Sub-Committee agreed that the minutes of the meeting held on 13 June 2013 be signed by the Chair as a correct record.

**2. Applications for Dispensations**

The Sub-Committee considered a report regarding applications from 30 County Councillors who had requested a widening of the current dispensation given to county councillors who were also district/borough councillors or whose spouse or partner are district/borough councillors (twin-hatters) to enable them to participate in meetings considering the proposals on changes to Housing Related Support.

Members noted that the current dispensation granted to twin-hatters by the Sub-Committee in 2013, allowed them to participate (including speaking and voting) on matters impacting on other public authorities unless the issue is a matter of dispute with the county council and there would be financial implications for the other public authority. The proposals for changes to Housing Related Support have financial implications for district/boroughs and there are differences of view which means that, under the current dispensations, twin-hatted members can speak at a meeting but then must withdraw until the matter is dealt with.

The Sub-Committee considered whether it would be appropriate, in these particular circumstances, to grant wider dispensations to those twin-hatted members who are precluded from participation and voting on these proposals only due to the fact that they or their spouse or partner are in receipt of a members allowance.

In reaching their decision, the Sub-Committee considered the grounds for granting dispensations set out at 2.2 of the report and took into account the following factors:

- The housing related support services proposals are a key part of the Council's current savings plan. The Council is hung and nearly 50% of its membership would be precluded from voting on the proposals.
- There is an impact on the political balance of the Council and there is an uneven distribution of members affected across the county so that some areas are more significantly affected than others.
- County councillors have a number of competing key roles to balance (set out in 3.5 of the report).
- District/Borough councillors are also elected to represent constituents and act in the public interest. It is unlikely that the Housing Related Support proposals would have any impact on the levels of member's allowances paid by the district/borough councils and unlikely that councillors would receive any personal benefit or disbenefit as a result of these proposals.

It was noted that dispensations can be applied for up to four years but agreed that this dispensation would be appropriate to run for the period of the current One Organisational Plan (to March 2018), but noted that there would be opportunity to review dispensations following the County elections in 2017.

**Resolved**

That, taking into account the considerations set out in the report and referred to in these minutes, a dispensation be granted to those county councillors listed in the Appendix and who have a disclosable pecuniary interest only because they or their spouses or partners are in receipt of a members allowance from a district/borough council in Warwickshire to fully participate in any future discussions concerning housing related support services until 31 March 2018.

The Committee rose at 10.30 a.m.

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Chair

## Minutes of Dispensations Sub-Committee – 10 August 2015    Appendix

Dispensation is granted to the following members who have a disclosable pecuniary interest only because they or their spouses/partners are in receipt of a members allowance from a district/borough council in Warwickshire, to fully participate in any future discussions concerning housing related support services until 31 March 2018.

### County Councillors who are also Borough/District Councillors

<b>County Councillor</b>	<b>Party</b>	<b>District/Borough Council</b>
Neil Dirveiks	Labour	North Warwickshire BC
Colin Hayfield	Conservative	North Warwickshire BC
Joan Lea	Conservative	North Warwickshire BC
Peter Morson	Labour	North Warwickshire BC
Brian Moss	Labour	North Warwickshire BC
John Beaumont	Labour	Nuneaton & BedworthBC
Sara Doughty	Labour	Nuneaton & BedworthBC
Brian Hawkes	Labour	Nuneaton & BedworthBC
Julie Jackson	Labour	Nuneaton & BedworthBC
Caroline Phillips	Labour	Nuneaton & BedworthBC
June Tandy	Labour	Nuneaton & BedworthBC
Keith Kondakor	Green	Nuneaton & BedworthBC
Peter Butlin	Conservative	Rugby BC
Richard Dodd	Liberal Democrat	Rugby BC
Maggie O'Rourke	Labour	Rugby BC
Jerry Roodhouse	Liberal Democrat	Rugby BC
Heather Timms	Conservative	Rugby BC
Howard Roberts	Independent	Rugby BC
Mike Brain	Conservative	Stratford DC
Jenny Fradgley	Liberal Democrat	Stratford DC
Mike Gittus	Conservative	Stratford DC
Danny Kendall	Conservative	Stratford DC
Kate Rolfe	Liberal Democrat	Stratford DC
Chris Saint	Conservative	Stratford DC
Chris Williams	Conservative	Stratford DC
Bill Gifford	Liberal Democrat	Warwick DC
Dave Shilton	Conservative	Warwick DC

### County Councillors whose spouse or partner is a Borough/District Councillor

Isobel Seccombe	Conservative	Philip Seccombe is a member of Stratford District Council
Wallace Redford	Conservative	Pamela Redford is a member of Warwick District Council
Howard Roberts	Independent	Deepah Roberts is a member of Rugby Borough Council
Sarah Boad	Liberal Democrat	Alan Boad is a member of Warwick District Council
Neil Dirveiks	Labour	Lorna Dirveiks is a member of North Warwickshire Borough Council