

**Minutes of the meeting of the Dispensations Sub-Committee
held on 24th June 2013**

Present

Members: Councillor Chris Saint
Councillor Bob Stevens
Councillor Mary Webb

Officers: Georgina Atkinson, Democratic Services Team Leader
Greta Needham, Head of Law and Governance

1. General

(1) Apologies

There were no apologies for absence.

(2) Appointment of Chair

The Sub-Committee agreed that Councillor Bob Stevens be duly elected as Chair of the Sub-Committee for 2013/14.

(3) Minutes of the meeting of the Dispensations Sub-Committee held on 25th September 2012

The Sub-Committee agreed that the minutes of the meeting held on 25th September 2012 be signed by the Chair as a true and accurate record.

2. Applications for Dispensations

The Sub-Committee considered a report that set out a number of proposed dispensations to be granted for members of the County Council, designed to protect members from inadvertent breaches of the Code of Conduct requirements relating to Disclosable Pecuniary Interest (DPI).

Greta Needham, Head of Law and Governance, explained that omissions and ambiguities in the new legislation had the potential to prevent the County Council from conducting its business effectively. The grant of the recommended dispensations would avoid the potential for large numbers of members to be excluded from debates relating to local issues, and would also provide clarity in an area of uncertainty for elected members and the public

The Dispensations Sub-Committee agreed to grant the following dispensations for four years to all County Councillors:

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(a) Allowing them to both speak and vote in relation to the following functions of the County Council:

- i. school meals or school transport and travelling expenses, where the County Councillor is a parent or guardian of a child in full-time education, unless it relates particularly to the school which the child attends;
- ii. the provision of any allowance, payment, pension, indemnity or other financial benefit given to members; and
- iii. setting Council Tax or a precept.

(b) Who are elected members or co-opted members of another public authority, or whose spouse or partner are elected or co-opted members of another public authority, and who have a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in a matter only by virtue of the fact that s/he or his/her spouse or partner is in receipt of an allowance from that other authority:

- i. where the issue is a matter of dispute between the County Council and the other authority, and the matter would affect the financial position of that other authority, the County Councillor may speak on the matter provided s/he immediately withdraws from the meeting room; and
- ii. in relation to other matters affecting that other authority, the County Councillor may speak and vote.

(c) Where he/she only has a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in a matter relating to the County Council or another authority by virtue of the fact that his or her spouse or partner is an employee of the County Council or that other authority, the County Councillor may speak and vote on all matters affecting the County Council or that other authority other than issues which would have a direct impact on the employment of the spouse or partner.

The Committee rose at 12.30 p.m.

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Chair