

# Dispensations

**Standards Committee**

**Date: 12<sup>th</sup> December 2012**

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Author:	Director of Law and Democratic Services
Wards:	All
Locality Affected:	All
Parishes Affected:	All

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## **1. Purpose and Reasons**

- 1.1 To consider any applications from Councillors for a dispensation to speak and vote on a matter for which they have a declarable pecuniary interest.

## **2. Recommendations**

The Committee is recommended to:

- 2.1 Determine any applications for a dispensation which are reported to the meeting by the Monitoring Officer, and to authorise him to grant any additional applications received on the same subject.
- 2.2 Authorise the Director of Law and Democratic Services to grant applications for Dispensations, in consultation with the Chair of the Standards Committee, on any subject matter, when the application is urgent and cannot wait to the next scheduled meeting of the Standards Committee. Any such dispensations be reported to the next scheduled meeting of the Committee.

## **3. Detail**

Dispensations

- 3.1 The Standards Committee is authorised to grant dispensations under Section 33 of the Localism Act 2011 to allow a Member with a pecuniary interest in a matter to speak and / or vote on that matter.
- 3.2 A report is due to be considered by Cabinet on 12<sup>th</sup> December, and the next Council meeting, which could lead to any Member with a second property having a disclosable pecuniary interest, and being unable to speak or vote on the matter. The Director of Law and Democratic Services will report at the meeting on which applications he has received for dispensation to speak and vote under Section 33 of the Act.
- 3.3 It is recommended that those applications for dispensations which have been received to date be granted for a period of 4 years, and the Monitoring Officer be authorised to grant a dispensation in relation to any further applications received from other Members of the Council on the same subject.
- 3.4 To avoid the necessity to call regular special meetings of the Standards Committee, it is also recommended that the Monitoring Officer in consultation

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Further information on the subject of this report can be obtained from Stephen Taylor, 01793 463012, [staylor@swindon.gov.uk](mailto:staylor@swindon.gov.uk).

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with the Chair of the Committee be authorised to grant applications for a dispensation on any matter which is urgent and cannot wait for consideration by the next scheduled meeting of the Standards Committee. These will then be reported for information to the next meeting.

## **4. Alternative Options**

- 4.1 Any alternative options are set out in the body of the report.

## **5. Implications, Diversity Impact Assessment and Risk Management**

### Financial and Procurement Implications

- 5.1 There are no specific financial or procurement implications involved in this report.

### Legal and Human Rights Implications

- 5.2 The legal and human rights implications, where applicable, are set out in the body of the report.

### All Other Implications (including Staff, Sustainability, Health, Rural, Crime and Disorder)

- 5.3 There are no other implications that have been identified as important for this report.

### Links to One Swindon, Plans and Policies

- 5.4 Monitoring of issues of probity in the Council underpins the Council's plans and policies and the delivery of One Swindon objectives.

### Diversity Impact Assessment

- 5.5 A Diversity Impact Assessment has not been completed for this report, as it does not recommend a change in Council policy or service.

### Risk Management

- 5.6 A risk assessment has not been completed in relation this report, as it does as it does not recommend a change in Council policy or service. Arrangements for meeting the requirements of the Localism Act and monitoring probity of the Council, ensures that good governance is maintained and protects the reputation of the organisation.

## **6. Consultees**

- 6.1 The Director of Finance (Section 151 Officer) and Director of Law and Democratic Services (Monitoring Officer) are consulted in respect of all reports.

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**7. Background Papers**

7.1 None

**8. Appendices**

8.1 None