

Dispensations under Section 33 of the Localism Act 2011

The Standards Committee has delegated power from the Council to grant dispensations under Section 33 of the Localism Act 2011 (the Act). Such a dispensation allows a member to take part in an item of business even though they have a pecuniary interest and is granted in order to facilitate the effective and efficient running of Council business. The Committee at its meeting on 14 September 2012 agreed to grant general dispensations to all members of the Council from Section 31(4) of the Localism Act 2011 in respect of the following matters:

- (a) **housing**, where the member is a tenant of the authority, provided that those functions do not relate particularly to that member's tenancy or lease;
- (b) **school meals** or **school transport** and travelling expenses, where the member is a parent or guardian of a child in full time education, or is a parent governor of a school, unless it relates particularly to the school which the child attends;
- (c) an **allowance, payment, pension or indemnity** given to members;
- (d) any **ceremonial honour** given to members;
- (e) setting a **council tax reduction scheme** for the purposes of the Local Government Finance Act 2012.
- (f) **setting council tax or a precept** under the Local Government Finance Act 1992.
- (g) setting a **local scheme for the payment of business rates** including eligibility for rebates and reductions for the purpose of the Finance Act 2012.

The Standards Committee also agreed that the power to grant dispensations under grounds (a) and (d) of Section 33 (2) of the Localism Act 2011 be delegated to the Monitoring Officer [the Director – Legal and Governance]. The grounds for granting such dispensations are objective and would be used in circumstances where so many members had disclosable pecuniary interests in a matter that it would impede the business of the Authority or the Executive, for example, sufficient to make a meeting inquorate.