

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY, 27TH JANUARY, 2016

- Councillors Present:** Councillor Sophie Linden in the Chair
Cllr Sally Mulready and Cllr Jessica Webb (Vice-Chair)
- Co optees Present:** George Gross
- Apologies:** Councillor Ben Hayhurst and Councillor Clare Potter
- Officers in Attendance:** Yinka Owa (Assistant Director Legal and Democratic Services) and Robert Walker (Governance Services Officer)

1 Apologies for absence

- 1.1 As listed above.

2 Declarations of Interests

- 2.1 There were no declarations of interest.

3 Report of Corporate Director of Legal, HR and Regulatory Services: Request for Dispensation for all Members of Full Council

- 3.1 Yinka Owa, Assistant Director of Legal and Democratic Services, introduced the report. She explained that Full Council was due to meet later the same evening and hear a motion on the Government's Housing and Planning Bill 2015, for which the proposals of the Bill were set out in paragraph 1.3 of the report.
- 3.2 Yinka Owa stated that the Bill had the potential to affect Members who are tenants of the Council, or housing association or private sector tenants, or private sector landlords, or those who work for a private sector landlord or housing association. Consequently, Members with such interests may be deemed to have a pecuniary interest under the Members' Code of Conduct and the Relevant Authorities (Disclosure of Pecuniary Interests) Regulations 2012 and would be required to declare the interest and leave the meeting during consideration of the motion.
- 3.3 Yinka Owa explained that the Standards Committee had been called to consider whether dispensation should be granted on one or both of the following statutory grounds:
- i) That granting dispensation was in the interests of residents; and/or

- ii) That it is otherwise appropriate to grant dispensation for some other reason.
- 3.4 George Gross noted that a large number of Members may be affected if dispensation was not granted and he expressed his view that it was logical to grant dispensation to allow Members to participate in the motion. He believed it was relevant that Full Council would only be debating a Government Bill and that Members would only be expressing their views.
- 3.5 Following discussion by the Committee of whether or not dispensation should be granted and, if dispensation was to be granted, the extent of Members involvement who may have any interest, it was **RESOLVED** that:

All Members of Full Council be granted dispensation to participate in the debate and vote on the motion on the Housing and Planning Bill at the Full Council meeting on 27th January 2016.

Ground and reasons for the decision

That it was otherwise appropriate for some other reason to grant dispensation.

The Standards Committee noted that Members who are tenants of the Council, or housing association or private sector tenants, or private sector landlords, or work for a private sector landlord or housing association, may all be affected by the Housing and Planning Bill and may be deemed to have a pecuniary interest.

The Committee believed that if dispensation was not granted so great a number of Members would be unable to participate that it would impair the debate on the motion.

Further

The Standards Committee stipulates that any Member who speaks during the motion should declare any pecuniary or other interest that they may have at the time that they rise to speak.

4 Any other business

- 4.1 None.

Duration of the meeting: 6.00 - 6.30 pm

Contact:

Robert Walker, Governance Services