

17 June 2016

<b>Committee</b>	Standards Committee (Special)
<b>Date</b>	Monday, 27 June 2016
<b>Time of Meeting</b>	9:00 am
<b>Venue</b>	Committee Room 2

**ALL MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE ARE REQUESTED TO ATTEND**



**for Sara J Freckleton  
Borough Solicitor**

<b>Agenda</b>
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**1. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

When the continuous alarm sounds you must evacuate the building by the nearest available fire exit. Members and visitors should proceed to the visitors' car park at the front of the building and await further instructions (staff should proceed to their usual assembly point). Please do not re-enter the building unless instructed to do so.

In the event of a fire any person with a disability should be assisted in leaving the building.

**2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

To receive apologies for absence.



**3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Pursuant to the adoption by the Council on 26 June 2012 of the Tewkesbury Borough Council Code of Conduct, effective from 1 July 2012, as set out in Minute No. CL.34, Members are invited to declare any interest they may have in the business set out on the Agenda to which the approved Code applies.

**4. TEWKESBURY BOROUGH COUNCIL CODE OF MEMBERS' CONDUCT - APPLICATIONS FOR DISPENSATION**

1 - 3

To consider the report of the Monitoring Officer on any applications received.

<b>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</b>	
<b>MONDAY, 19 SEPTEMBER 2016</b>	
<b>MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEE</b>	
Tewkesbury Borough Council Members	Councillor M Dean Councillor Mrs S E Hillier-Richardson Councillor T A Spencer Councillor P D Surman (Chair) Councillor M G Sztymiak Councillor H A E Turbyfield and Councillor M J Williams (Vice-Chair)
Non-Voting Independent Persons	Mr M Jauch and Mr P J Kimber
Non-Voting Parish Representatives	Mr D J Horsfall and Vacancy

**Recording of Meetings**

Please be aware that the proceedings of this meeting may be recorded and this may include recording of persons seated in the public gallery or speaking at the meeting. Please notify the Democratic Services Officer if you have any objections to this practice and the Chairman will take reasonable steps to ensure that any request not to be recorded is complied with.

Any recording must take place in such a way as to ensure that the view of Councillors, Officers, the public and press is not obstructed. The use of flash photography and/or additional lighting will not be allowed unless this has been discussed and agreed in advance of the meeting.

## TEWKESBURY BOROUGH COUNCIL

<b>Report to:</b>	Standards Committee
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	27 June 2016
<b>Subject:</b>	Applications for Dispensation
<b>Report of:</b>	Sara Freckleton, Monitoring Officer
<b>Number of Appendices:</b>	None

<p><b>Executive Summary:</b></p> <p>This report sets out the basis for the determination by the Standards Committee of any applications for dispensation which are made by Members of the Borough Council in order to participate in the business to be conducted at the meeting of the Council on 28 June 2016.</p>
<p><b>Recommendation:</b></p> <p><b>The Committee is asked to determine any applications for dispensation which have been made by Members of the Borough Council in order to enable them to participate in the matter of the approval of the business to be considered at the meeting of the Council on 28 June 2016.</b></p>

### 1.0 INTRODUCTION/BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The arrangements which were adopted by the Council on 25 June 2012 to comply with the provisions of the Localism Act 2011 included arrangements for decisions to be made on applications by Members of the Council for dispensation to participate in items of business in which they consider that they have either a disclosable pecuniary or an “other” interest.
- 1.2 Responsibility for the determination of applications for dispensation has been delegated to the Monitoring Officer where the application is made on grounds (a) and (b) set out in Paragraph 2.1 below and any application on the basis of grounds (c) & (d) are within the remit of the Standards Committee.
- 1.3 On 28 June 2016, Tewkesbury Borough Council will consider the Inspector’s Interim Report on the Gloucester, Cheltenham and Tewkesbury Joint Core Strategy. The Monitoring Officer has provided advice to all Members of the Council to enable them to consider whether they have any interests which may, in accordance with the Tewkesbury Borough Council Code of Members’ Conduct, preclude their participation at the Council meeting. The Code provides as follows:-

## **Disclosable Pecuniary Interests**

**1.4** Where a matter, in which you have an interest as specified in Appendix A (disclosable pecuniary interests), arises at a meeting at which you are present, or where you become aware that you have such an interest in any matter to be considered or being considered at a meeting:-

- (1) **Do** ensure, that if your interest is not entered in the Authority's Register, you disclose the interest to the meeting (unless the Authority's Monitoring Officer considers that it is a sensitive interest in which case you do not need to disclose the nature of the interest); and that you notify the Monitoring Officer of the interest within 28 days in accordance with paragraph 8(3) of this Code.
- (2) **Do** leave the meeting and **do not** vote on the matter, participate, or participate further, in any discussion of the matter at the meeting (unless a dispensation has been granted).

## **Other Interests**

**1.5** Where a matter, in which

either you have an interest as specified in Appendix B (other interests),

or where a decision on the matter might reasonably be regarded as affecting, to a greater extent that it would affect the majority of other Council taxpayers, ratepayers or inhabitants of the ward affected by the decision, your wellbeing or financial position or the wellbeing or financial position of a member of your family, or any person with whom you have a close association, or who has a contractual relationship (including employment) with yourself, member of your family or close associate, arises at a meeting at which you are present, or where you become aware that you have such an interest in any matter to be considered or being considered at the meeting:-

- (1) **Do** ensure that you disclose the interest to the meeting.
- (2) **Do** leave the meeting and **do not** vote on the matter, participate, or participate further, in any discussion of the matter at the meeting (unless a dispensation has been granted or it is an excepted function), if,
  - (a) it affects your financial position or the financial position of an interest specified in Appendix B (other interests) or the member of your family or person with whom you have a close association described above or who has a contractual relationship as described above
  - or
  - (b) it relates to the determination of any approval, consent, licence, permission or registration in relation to you or any person or body described aboveand a reasonable member of the public knowing the facts would reasonably regard it as so significant that it is likely to prejudice your judgement of the public interest.

The rules set out in Paragraph 10(4) above do not have the effect of precluding a Member from attending a meeting only for the purpose of making representations, answering questions or giving evidence relating to the business provided that the public are also allowed to attend the meeting for the same purpose, whether under a statutory right or otherwise. The Member must, after making their submission, withdraw immediately from the meeting.

**1.6** It is for any individual Member to consider whether or not they have an interest in any matter being considered at a Council meeting and whether that interest precludes their participation in that matter.

## **2.0 APPLICATIONS FOR DISPENSATION**

**2.1** In accordance with the Code of Conduct, Members are entitled to seek dispensation to participate in a decision on a matter in which they have either a disclosable pecuniary (Part A) or “other” (Part B) interest. The grounds upon which dispensations may be granted are as follows:-

- (a) without the dispensation the number of persons prohibited from participating in any particular business would be so great a proportion of the body transacting the business as to impede the transaction of the business,
- (b) without the dispensation the representation of different political groups on the body transacting any particular business would be so upset as to alter the likely outcome of any vote relating to the business,
- (c) granting the dispensation is in the interests of persons living in the authority’s area,
- (d) it is otherwise appropriate to grant a dispensation.

**2.2** Applications for dispensation must be made in writing and copies of any applications which are received will be provided to the Committee.

## **3.0 DETERMINATION OF APPLICATIONS FOR DISPENSATION**

**3.1** As can be seen from Paragraph 2.1 above, there are a number of grounds upon which dispensation can be granted and the Committee has a wide discretion to grant dispensations falling within its remit provided that all of the circumstances are taken into account.

**3.2** When granting any dispensation, the period for which a dispensation has effect must be specified, and the period specified may not exceed four years.

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**Background Papers:** None.

**Contact Officer:** Sara Freckleton Borough Solicitor Tel: 01684 272011

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**Appendices:** None.