

Meeting of:	Standards Committee
Date of Meeting:	Thursday, 23 January 2020
Relevant Scrutiny Committee:	No Relevant Scrutiny Committee
Report Title:	Applications for Dispensation – and Use of the Monitoring Officer's Delegated Powers
Purpose of Report:	To consider applications for dispensation.
Report Owner:	Ms. Debbie Marles, Monitoring Officer/Head of Legal and Democratic Services
Responsible Officer:	Mrs. Karen Bowen, Principal Democratic and Scrutiny Services Officer
Elected Member and Officer Consultation:	This report does not involve any consultation with other parties
Policy Framework:	This report is a matter for consideration by the Standards Committee
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Executive Summary:

• To consider applications for dispensation from Members of the Vale of Glamorgan Council.

Recommendation

1. That the Standards Committee consider the applications on matters as set out in the completed proformas attached to the report.

Reason for Recommendation

1. To comply with the regulations and obligations for the grant of dispensations to speak and vote.

1. Background

- 1.1 The Standards Committee Grant of Dispensations (Wales) Regulations 2001 permits Members to apply to Standards Committee to speak and, if appropriate, to vote on issues which due to prejudicial interests, they may not otherwise be able to speak or vote or remain in the room.
- 1.2 In order to deal with the applications as quickly as possible, it is necessary for the Standards Committee to receive full information of the interests involved and why in the Member's opinion dispensation should be given.
- **1.3** Applicants are advised that they are also able to attend the Standards Committee meeting to present their application if they wish to do so.
- **1.4** Committee is requested to consider the applications as below:
- Application for dispensation from Councillor Mrs. J.A. Moore, Vale of Glamorgan Council, to speak, vote and remain in meetings where issues are raised (including budgets) in respect of All Saints C/W Primary School (paragraphs (d), (e), (f) and (i));
- Application for dispensation from Councillor N. Moore, Vale of Glamorgan Council, to speak, vote and remain in meetings where issues are raised (including budgets) in respect of All Saints C/W Primary School (paragraphs (d), (e), (f) and (i));
- Application for dispensation from Councillor Mrs. M.R. Wilkinson, Vale of Glamorgan Council, to speak and vote in meetings on matters concerning Gwenfo Church in Wales Primary School and Cadoxton Primary School where matters relating to the above schools are to be discussed (paragraphs (d), (e), (f) and (i)
- Application for dispensation from Councillor L. Burnett, Vale of Glamorgan Council, to speak, vote and remain in meetings where issues are raised (including budgets) in respect of Ysgol St. Baruc and St. Cyres Comprehensive Schools (paragraphs (d), (e), (f) and (i).

2. Key Issues for Consideration

2.1 Committee is requested to consider and determine the applications for dispensation received.

3. How do proposals evidence the Five Ways of Working and contribute to our Well-being Objectives?

3.1 One of the roles and functions of the Standards Committee (as detailed in the Council's Constitution) is to consider the granting of dispensations to Councillors, Co-opted Members and Church and Parent Governor Representatives from requirements relating to interests set out in the Members' Code of Conduct.

4. Resources and Legal Considerations

Financial

4.1 None as a direct result of this report.

Employment

4.2 None as a direct result of this report.

Legal (Including Equalities)

4.3 The Council is required to comply with the Standards Committee Grant of Dispensations (Wales) Regulations 2001.

5. Background Papers

Standards Committee Grant of Dispensations (Wales) Regulations 2001.



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Name of Councillor	Cllr Josephine Anne Moore
Address	6 Cardiff Road Barry
Name of Member's relevant Authority and Ward	Cadoc Ward Vale of Glamorgan Council
Nature of Dispensation sought	Dispensation to Speak, Vote and remain in meetings where issues are raised (including budgets) in respect of All Saints C/W Primary School, as my Grandchild attends the school, with effect from 13 th January 2020.
Date of meeting / issue to be discussed (if known)	23 rd January 2020
Do you seek a dispensation just for the one meeting or for a longer period? If longer, please state a period. (N.B. All dispensations granted expire at the next Council elections.)	Until the next Local Government Election in May 2022.
Level of dispensation sought (i.e. to speak and vote)	Dispensation to Speak, Vote and Remain in meetings where issues are raised (including budgets) are considered relating to the All Saints C/W School budget, albeit it is rare that this could occur (it has never been the case thus far).
	However, when considering school budgets generically, by implication any decision could affect any school (including All Saints C/W Primary School.)
	I also attend Scrutiny committees where these budgets could be and often are discussed and

therefore, I am seeking this dispensation because I do not consider my connection with the school is so tenuous to be irrelevant.

Also at Council when setting budgets all aspects of the council are considered and again this by implication could refer to any school.

I respectfully request this dispensation.

Relevant paragraph(s) under which dispensation can be granted (See (a) to (j) overleaf) I refer you to the issues raised below but specifically (d), (e), (f) & (i)

The Standards Committees (Grant of Dispensations) (Wales) Regulations 2001 specifies that the Council's Standards Committee may grant dispensations under Section 81(4) of the Local Government Act 2000 where:

(d)

the nature of the Member's interest is such that the Member's participation in the business to which the interest relates would not damage public confidence in the conduct of the Council's business:

I consider that being a grandparent of a child in any school would arguably not be considered to be a prejudicial interest and dispensation in this instance would not damage public confidence. I would assume this would apply to many members of the council who have children / grandchildren who attend Vale of Glamorgan Council Schools.

(e)

the interest is common to the Member and a significant proportion of the general public;

I consider this to be relevant as a significant number of people have children or grandchildren attending Vale of Glamorgan Council Schools.

(f)

the participation of the Member in the business to which the interest relates is justified by the Member's particular role or expertise;

As a member of this and predecessor Council's for 29 years and the experience and positions I have held, I consider that this qualifies me for a dispensation.

(i)

it appears to the Standards Committee to be in the interests of the inhabitants of the area of the Council that the disability should be removed; or

I consider that as I am a Councillor of long standing that this reference is particularly relevant.

In fact I consider this reference to be relevant to any member of the Council who has and child / grandchild attending Vale of Glamorgan Council Schools.

Details of the Prejudicial Interest	My Grandson will be attending from 13 January 2020 a Vale of Glamorgan Council Voluntary aided School – All Saints C/W School
Details of any Position of responsibility / control held on your Council (e.g. Chairman / Vice-Chairman / Cabinet Member)	Councillor for Cadoc Ward
Reason(s) to support the application and why you consider the Standards Committee should grant a dispensation (Use a separate sheet of paper if	I believe that I have covered this above, but in summary, as my grandchild is a pupil in a school and is no different to any other child attending any school in the Vale of Glamorgan and their attendance has no relevance on any aspect of my work as a Councillor.
necessary)	

SIGNE	EDJosephine Anne Moore
DATE	D: 13 th January 2020
Each s	section of the form MUST be fully completed.
(N.B.	If you are submitting your application form electronically, without a signature, please give written permission for the receiving officer to sign the application form on your behalf. Failure to do this will result in the application being deemed incomplete and returned to the applicant.)

SIGNATURE OF OFFICER (IF APPROPRIATE):

Please return completed form to: Democratic and Scrutiny Services, Directorate of Resources, Room 26, 1st Floor, Civic Offices, Holton Road, Barry, CF63 4RU

- (a) no fewer than half of the Members of the Council or of a committee of the Council (as the case may be) by which the business is to be considered has an interest which relates to that business;
- (b) no fewer than half of the Members of the Executive of the Council (i.e. Leader and Cabinet) by which the business is to be considered has an interest which relates to that business and either paragraph (d) or (e) also applies;
- (c) Members' inability to participate would upset the political balance of the Council, or any of its committees by which the business is to be considered, to such an extent that the outcome would be likely to be affected;
- (d) the nature of the Member's interest is such that the Member's participation in the business to which the interest relates would not damage public confidence in the conduct of the Council's business;
- (e) the interest is common to the Member and a significant proportion of the general public;
- (f) the participation of the Member in the business to which the interest relates is justified by the Member's particular role or expertise;
- (g) the registerable interest relates to business, which is to be considered by an Overview and Scrutiny Committee of the Council, and the Member's interest is not a pecuniary/financial interest:
- (h) the business relates to the finances or property of a voluntary organisation of whose management committee or board the Member is a member otherwise than as a representative of the Council and the Member has no other interest in that business, provided that any dispensation shall not extend to participation in any vote with respect to that business;
- (i) it appears to the Standards Committee to be in the interests of the inhabitants of the area of the Council that the disability should be removed; or
- (j) it appears to the Standards Committee to be otherwise appropriate to grant a dispensation. [If this circumstance is relied upon it will be required to be reviewed on a 12 month basis Local Government (Standards Committees, Investigations, Dispensations and Referral) (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2016 (3(1)A)]



Name of Councillor	CIIr Neil Moore
Address	6 Cardiff Road Barry
Name of Member's relevant Authority and Ward	Cadoc Ward Vale of Glamorgan Council
Nature of Dispensation sought	Dispensation to Speak, Vote and remain in meetings where issues are raised (including budgets) in respect of All Saints C/W Primary School, as my Grandchild attends the school, with effect from 13 th January 2020.
Date of meeting / issue to be discussed (if known)	23 rd January 2020
Do you seek a dispensation just for the one meeting or for a longer period? If longer, please state a period. (N.B. All dispensations granted expire at the next Council elections.)	Until the next Local Government Election in May 2022.
Level of dispensation sought (i.e. to speak only or to speak and vote)	Dispensation to Speak, Vote and Remain in meetings where issues are raised (including budgets) are considered (as I am the Leader of the Council and responsible for Finance), relating to the All Saints C/W School budget, albeit it is rare that this could occur (it has never been the case thus far). However, when considering school budgets generically, by implication any decision could affect any school (including All Saints C/W Primary School.)

I also attend Scrutiny committees where these budgets could be and often are discussed and therefore, I am seeking this dispensation because I do not consider my connection with the school is so tenuous to be irrelevant.

I also attend School Budget Forum, which discusses all school budgets and again by implication the All Saints C/W Primary School.

Also at Cabinet and Council when setting budgets all aspects of the council are considered and again this by implication could refer to any school.

I respectfully request this dispensation.

Relevant paragraph(s) under which dispensation can be granted (See (a) to (j) overleaf) I refer you to the issues raised below but specifically (d), (e), (f) & (i)

The Standards Committees (Grant of Dispensations) (Wales) Regulations 2001 specifies that the Council's Standards Committee may grant dispensations under Section 81(4) of the Local Government Act 2000 where:

(d)

the nature of the Member's interest is such that the Member's participation in the business to which the interest relates would not damage public confidence in the conduct of the Council's business:

I consider that being a grandparent of a child in any school would arguably not be considered to be a prejudicial interest and dispensation in this instance would not damage public confidence. I would assume this would apply to many members of the council who have children / grandchildren who attend Vale of Glamorgan Council Schools.

(e)

the interest is common to the Member and a significant proportion of the general public;

I consider this to be relevant as a significant number of people have children or grandchildren attending Vale of Glamorgan Council Schools.

(f)

the participation of the Member in the business to which the interest relates is justified by the Member's particular role or expertise;

As a member of this and predecessor Council's for 31 years and the experience and positions I have and currently hold, I consider that this qualifies me for an dispensation. As indicated I am the finance lead member and have been the lead finance member whilst in opposition for many, many years as well as holding the finance portfolio in the past, both as Leader and Deputy Leader.

(i)

it appears to the Standards Committee to be in the interests of the inhabitants of the area of the Council that the disability should be removed; or

I consider that as I am the Leader of the Council and responsible for Finance I consider that this reference is particularly relevant.

In fact I consider this reference to be relevant to any member of the Council who has and child / grandchild attending Vale of Glamorgan Council Schools.

Details of the Prejudicial Interest	My Grandson will be attending from 13 January 2020 a Vale of Glamorgan Council Voluntary aided School – All Saints C/W School
Details of any Position of responsibility / control held on your Council (e.g. Chairman / Vice-Chairman / Cabinet Member)	Leader of the Council And Councillor for Cadoc Ward
Reason(s) to support the application and why you consider the Standards Committee should grant a dispensation (Use a separate sheet of paper if necessary)	I believe that I have covered this above, but in summary, as my grandchild is a pupil in a schoo and is no different to any other child attending any school in the Vale of Glamorgan and their attendance has no relevance on any aspect of my work as the Leader of the Council or indeed as a Councillor.
SIGNED	Neil Moore
DATED: 13 th January 2020	
Each section of the form MUST be fully completed.	
(N.B. If you are submitting your a	application form electronically, without a

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SIGNATURE OF OFFICER (IF APPROPRIATE):

Please return completed form to: Democratic and Scrutiny Services, Directorate of Resources, Room 26, 1st Floor, Civic Offices, Holton Road, Barry, CF63 4RU

- (a) no fewer than half of the Members of the Council or of a committee of the Council (as the case may be) by which the business is to be considered has an interest which relates to that business;
- (b) no fewer than half of the Members of the Executive of the Council (i.e. Leader and Cabinet) by which the business is to be considered has an interest which relates to that business and either paragraph (d) or (e) also applies;
- (c) Members' inability to participate would upset the political balance of the Council, or any of its committees by which the business is to be considered, to such an extent that the outcome would be likely to be affected;
- (d) the nature of the Member's interest is such that the Member's participation in the business to which the interest relates would not damage public confidence in the conduct of the Council's business;
- (e) the interest is common to the Member and a significant proportion of the general public;
- (f) the participation of the Member in the business to which the interest relates is justified by the Member's particular role or expertise;
- (g) the registerable interest relates to business, which is to be considered by an Overview and Scrutiny Committee of the Council, and the Member's interest is not a pecuniary/financial interest:
- (h) the business relates to the finances or property of a voluntary organisation of whose management committee or board the Member is a member otherwise than as a representative of the Council and the Member has no other interest in that business, provided that any dispensation shall not extend to participation in any vote with respect to that business;
- (i) it appears to the Standards Committee to be in the interests of the inhabitants of the area of the Council that the disability should be removed; or
- (j) it appears to the Standards Committee to be otherwise appropriate to grant a dispensation. [If this circumstance is relied upon it will be required to be reviewed on a 12 month basis Local Government (Standards Committees, Investigations, Dispensations and Referral) (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2016 (3(1)A)]



Name of Councillor	Margaret Wilkinson
Address	26, Aberaeron Close, Barry
Name of Member's relevant Authority and Ward	Vale of Glamorgan Council Gibbonsdown Ward
Nature of Dispensation sought	Dispensation to speak and vote in meetings on matters concerning Gwenfo Church in Wales Primary School and Cadoxton Primary School as my grandchildren attend both.
Date of meeting / issue to be discussed (if known)	Any meeting of the Vale Council including full council meetings where matters relating to the above school and nursery are to be discussed.
Do you seek a dispensation just for the one meeting or for a longer period? If longer, please state a period. (N.B. All dispensations granted expire at the next Council elections.)	Until the next Local Government Elections 2022
Level of dispensation sought (i.e. to speak only or to speak and vote)	To speak and vote
Relevant paragraph(s) under which dispensation can be granted (See (a) to (j) overleaf)	Paragraphs d, e, f and i.

Details of the Prejudicial Interest	I have two grandchildren who attend Gwenfo Church in Wales Primary School and Cadoxton Primary School.	
Details of any Position of responsibility / control held on your Council (e.g. Chairman / Vice-Chairman / Cabinet Member)	I am a Cabinet Member in the Vale Council	
Reason(s) to support the application and why you consider the Standards Committee should grant a dispensation	As Cabinet Member for the Vale Council the dispensation is being sought to speak, vote and remain at meetings where issues are raised in relation to the school and nursery as named above and in particular in respect of budgets that are considered for both.	
(Use a separate sheet of paper if necessary)	My grandchildren attending any school in the Vale is no different to any other child in the Vale attending the schools and in my view will have no relevance on my role as a Cabinet Member or Councillor of the Vale Council.	
SIGNED:Margaret Wilkinson DATED:16 th January 2020 Each section of the form MUST be fully completed.		
(N.B. If you are submitting your application form electronically, without a signature, please give written permission for the receiving officer to sign the application form on your behalf. Failure to do this will result in the application being deemed incomplete and returned to the applicant.)		
SIGNATURE OF OFFICER (IF APPROPRIATE):		
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- (a) no fewer than half of the Members of the Council or of a committee of the Council (as the case may be) by which the business is to be considered has an interest which relates to that business:
- (b) no fewer than half of the Members of the Executive of the Council (i.e. Leader and Cabinet) by which the business is to be considered has an interest which relates to that business and either paragraph (d) or (e) also applies;
- (c) Members' inability to participate would upset the political balance of the Council, or any of its committees by which the business is to be considered, to such an extent that the outcome would be likely to be affected;
- (d) the nature of the Member's interest is such that the Member's participation in the business to which the interest relates would not damage public confidence in the conduct of the Council's business;
- (e) the interest is common to the Member and a significant proportion of the general public;
- (f) the participation of the Member in the business to which the interest relates is justified by the Member's particular role or expertise;
- (g) the registerable interest relates to business, which is to be considered by an Overview and Scrutiny Committee of the Council, and the Member's interest is not a pecuniary/financial interest:
- (h) the business relates to the finances or property of a voluntary organisation of whose management committee or board the Member is a member otherwise than as a representative of the Council and the Member has no other interest in that business, provided that any dispensation shall not extend to participation in any vote with respect to that business;
- (i) it appears to the Standards Committee to be in the interests of the inhabitants of the area of the Council that the disability should be removed; or
- (j) it appears to the Standards Committee to be otherwise appropriate to grant a dispensation. [If this circumstance is relied upon it will be required to be reviewed on a 12 month basis Local Government (Standards Committees, Investigations, Dispensations and Referral) (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2016 (3(1)A)]



Name of Councillor	Cllr Lis Burnett
Address	71, Redlands Road, Penarth, CF64 2WE
Name of Member's relevant	Stanwell Ward
Authority and Ward	Vale of Glamorgan Council
Nature of Dispensation sought	Dispensation to Speak, Vote and remain in meetings where issues are raised (including budgets) in respect of Ysgol St Baruc and St Cyres Comprehensive, as my great-nieces and niece attend the schools.
	(I already have dispensation for one great niece who attends Ysgol St Baruc)
Date of meeting / issue to be discussed (if known)	23 rd January 2020
Do you seek a dispensation just for the one meeting or for a longer period? If longer, please state a period. (N.B. All dispensations granted expire at the next Council elections.)	Until the next Local Government Election in May 2022.
Level of dispensation sought (i.e. to speak and vote)	Dispensation to Speak, Vote and Remain in meetings where issues are raised (including budgets) are considered (as I am a Cabinet member of the Council and responsible for Financial decisions), relating to School budgets, albeit it is rare that this could occur (it has never been the case thus far).
	However, when considering school budgets generically, by implication any decision could

affect any school.

I also attend Scrutiny committees where these budgets could be and often are discussed and therefore, I am seeking this dispensation because I do not consider my connection with the school is so tenuous to be irrelevant.

I also attend School Budget Forum, which discusses all school budgets and again by implication the Ysgol St Baruc and St Cyres School.

Also at Cabinet and Council when setting budgets all aspects of the council are considered and again this by implication could refer to any school.

I respectfully request this dispensation.

Relevant paragraph(s) under which dispensation can be granted (See (a) to (j) overleaf)

I refer you to the issues raised below but specifically (d), (e), (f) & (i)

The Standards Committees (Grant of Dispensations) (Wales) Regulations 2001 specifies that the Council's Standards Committee may grant dispensations under Section 81(4) of the Local Government Act 2000 where:

(d)

the nature of the Member's interest is such that the Member's participation in the business to which the interest relates would not damage public confidence in the conduct of the Council's business;

I consider that being an aunt / great aunt of a child in any school would arguably not be considered to be a prejudicial interest and dispensation in this instance would not damage public confidence. I would assume this would apply to many members of the council who have great-nieces and nieces who attend Vale of Glamorgan Council Schools.

Details of the Prejudicial Interest	My great-nieces and niece attend Vale of Glamorgan Council Schools – Ysgol St Baruc and St Cyres School
Details of any Position of responsibility / control held on your Council (e.g. Chairman / Vice-Chairman / Cabinet Member)	Cabinet Member of the Council And Councillor for Stanwell Ward
Reason(s) to support the application and why you consider the Standards Committee should grant a dispensation (Use a separate sheet of paper if necessary)	I believe that I have covered this above, but in summary, as my great-nieces and niece are pupils in Vale of Glamorgan school and are no different to any other child attending any school in the Vale of Glamorgan and their attendance has no relevance on any aspect of my work as a Cabinet Member of the Council or indeed as a Councillor.
SIGNED DATED: 17th January 2020	
Each section of the form MUST	be fully completed.

(N.B. If you are submitting your application form electronically, without a signature, please give written permission for the receiving officer to sign the application form on your behalf. Failure to do this will result in the

application being deemed incomplete and returned to the applicant.)

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Please return completed form to:

Democratic and Scrutiny Services, Directorate of Resources, Room 26, 1st Floor, Civic Offices, Holton Road, Barry, CF63 4RU

(e)
the interest is common to the Member and a significant proportion of the general public;

I consider this to be relevant as a significant number of people have nieces or great-nieces attending Vale of Glamorgan Council Schools.

the participation of the Member in the business to which the interest relates is justified by the Member's particular role or expertise;

As a member of this Council for 11 years and the experience and positions I have and currently hold, I consider that this qualifies me for an dispensation.

it appears to the Standards Committee to be in the interests of the inhabitants of the area of the Council that the disability should be removed; or

> I consider that as I am a Cabinet member of the Council and for education I consider that this reference is particularly relevant.

In fact I consider this reference to be relevant to any member of the Council who has and great-nieces and niece attending Vale of Glamorgan Council Schools.

- (a) no fewer than half of the Members of the Council or of a committee of the Council (as the case may be) by which the business is to be considered has an interest which relates to that business;
- (b) no fewer than half of the Members of the Executive of the Council (i.e. Leader and Cabinet) by which the business is to be considered has an interest which relates to that business and either paragraph (d) or (e) also applies;
- (c) Members' inability to participate would upset the political balance of the Council, or any of its committees by which the business is to be considered, to such an extent that the outcome would be likely to be affected;
- (d) the nature of the Member's interest is such that the Member's participation in the business to which the interest relates would not damage public confidence in the conduct of the Council's business;
- (e) the interest is common to the Member and a significant proportion of the general public;
- (f) the participation of the Member in the business to which the interest relates is justified by the Member's particular role or expertise;
- (g) the registerable interest relates to business, which is to be considered by an Overview and Scrutiny Committee of the Council, and the Member's interest is not a pecuniary/financial interest;
- (h) the business relates to the finances or property of a voluntary organisation of whose management committee or board the Member is a member otherwise than as a representative of the Council and the Member has no other interest in that business, provided that any dispensation shall not extend to participation in any vote with respect to that business;
- (i) it appears to the Standards Committee to be in the interests of the inhabitants of the area of the Council that the disability should be removed; or
- it appears to the Standards Committee to be otherwise appropriate to grant a dispensation. [If this circumstance is relied upon it will be required to be reviewed on a 12 month basis Local Government (Standards Committees, Investigations, Dispensations and Referral) (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2016 (3(1)A)]