

<b>AUDIT COMMITTEE</b>	<b>AGENDA ITEM No. 4</b>
<b>21 NOVEMBER 2016</b>	<b>PUBLIC REPORT</b>

Contact Officer:	Kim Sawyer, Director of Governance	Tel. 01733 452361
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## REPORT TO CONSIDER DISPENSATIONS

<b>RECOMMENDATIONS</b>	
<b>FROM :</b> Kim Sawyer, Director of Governance	<b>Deadline date :</b> 21 November 2016
<p>The Audit Committee is asked to grant a general dispensation for a four year period ending in November 2020 to all Members who may have a disclosable pecuniary interest in any business of the authority where that business relates to the functions of the authority in respect of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Housing, where you are a tenant of your authority provided that those functions do not relate particularly to your tenancy or lease;</li> <li>ii. School meals or school transport and travelling expenses, where you are a parent or guardian of a child in full time education, or are a parent governor of a school, unless it relates particularly to the school which the child attends;</li> <li>iii. Statutory sick pay under Part XI of the Social Security Contributions and Benefits Act 1992, where you are in receipt of, or are entitled to the receipt of, such pay;</li> <li>iv. An allowance, payment or indemnity given to Members;</li> <li>v. Any ceremonial honour given to Members; and</li> <li>vi. Setting council tax or a precept under the Local Government Finance Act 1992</li> </ul>	

### 1. ORIGIN OF REPORT

- 1.1 This report is submitted to the Audit Committee by the Council's Monitoring Officer as part of their statutory duties, in order to adhere to regulations under the Localism Act 2011.
- 1.2 This report is being submitted in line with the Committee's Terms of Reference 2.2.1.15 to consider the Council's arrangements for corporate governance and agreeing necessary actions to ensure compliance with best practice.

### 2. PURPOSE AND REASON FOR REPORT

- 2.1 The purpose of this report is for the Audit Committee to grant a general dispensation to allow all Members who may have a disclosable pecuniary interest in any business of the authority where that business relates to the functions of the authority in respect of 1(i) to (vi) above, to speak and /or vote at a meeting.

### 3. TIMESCALE

Is this a Major Policy Item/Statutory Plan?	<b>NO</b>	If Yes, date for relevant Cabinet Meeting	N/A
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### 4. DISPENSATIONS

#### 4.1 Blanket dispensation

Members may have a disclosable pecuniary interest in any business of the authority where that business relates to the functions of the authority in respect of:

- i. Housing, where you are a tenant of your authority provided that those functions do not relate particularly to your tenancy or lease;
- ii. School meals or school transport and travelling expenses, where you are a parent or guardian of a child in full time education, or are a parent governor of a school, unless it relates particularly to the school which the child attends;
- iii. Statutory sick pay under Part XI of the Social Security Contributions and Benefits Act 1992, where you are in receipt of, or are entitled to the receipt of, such pay;
- iv. An allowance, payment or indemnity given to Members;
- v. Any ceremonial honour given to Members; and
- vi. Setting council tax or a precept under the Local Government Finance Act 1992

4.2 A general dispensation should be granted to allow all Members to speak and/or vote with regards to the above. The Audit Committee on 5 November 2012 granted a general dispensation regarding the above under s33 of the Localism Act 2011. Dispensations under this section may not exceed four years and therefore is due to expire in November 2016.

4.3 Therefore the Audit Committee is asked to renew the general dispensation for a further 4 years. This is consistent with the previous code of conduct in which these items were specifically excluded from the definition of a prejudicial interest, and is also consistent with the general approach being taken by the majority of other councils.

## **5. CONSULTATION**

No consultation is required.

## **6. ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES**

As set out in the report.

## **7. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Council is required to abide by the provisions of the Localism Act 2011.

## **8. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

These recommendations have been prepared in accordance with the Code and hence there are no acceptable alternative formats. The alternative is not to adopt these recommendations, and then the Council would be in breach of its statutory duties.

## **9. IMPLICATIONS**

There are no specific legal or financial implications, other than the legal requirement and implications set out in the report.

## **10. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

Used to prepare this report, in accordance with the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985)

Council's Constitution, the Localism Act 2011 and associated regulations.