

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

3 March 2008

Dispensation Procedure

0.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To seek Members' views on proposed amendments to the Dispensation Request Procedure.

2.0 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 At their meeting on 1 October 2007, Members of the Standards Committee considered and agreed certain amendments to the Council's Dispensation Request Procedure, in light of the new Members' Code of Conduct introduced last year.
- 2.2 At the Committee's last meeting on 14 January 2008, Members considered a report about the use made of the previously granted Community Fund Allocation dispensations. In the context of that discussion, Members of the Committee acknowledged that any Member acting under a dispensation should act carefully, ensuring that they continue to act, and appear to act, in the County Council's interests. Members also agreed that they should, in future, monitor the use made of dispensations granted by the Committee.
- 2.3 To this end, the Committee agreed that a decision-making protocol should be drawn up.

3.0 PRESENT POSITION

- 2.1 The Monitoring Officer considers that the most suitable way of promoting careful use of dispensations is within the Dispensation Request Procedure itself. It is suggested, therefore, that new paragraphs 8 and 9 be included at the end of the Procedure and a reminder note be included at the end of the application form, as indicated on the copy Procedure attached at Appendix 1.
- 2.2 Members' views are sought on the proposed amendments.

4.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 That subject to any comments they may have, Members approve the amendments to the Dispensation Request Procedure as set out in Appendix 1 to this report.

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Background Documents
None

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20 February 2008