

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

13 September 2010

Use made of Dispensations Granted

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To update Members regarding the use made of the dispensations granted by the Standards Committee.

2.0 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Members have previously agreed they would like to be periodically updated as to the use made of dispensations granted by the Committee. The Committee has received previous update reports and an item was included in the Committee's Work Programme for its September meeting. An update is set out below for Members' information.

3.0 UPDATE ON USE OF DISPENSATIONS

Historical Dispensations

- 3.1 The Standards Committee previously granted the following dispensations to Members, which have all now lapsed. The Committee received periodic updates as to the use of those dispensations.

Community Fund Allocations: At its meeting on 1 October 2007, the Committee granted dispensations to 28 County Councillors (between them sitting on Craven Area Committee, the County Committee for Hambleton, Richmondshire Area Committee and the Yorkshire Coast and Moors County Area Committee) to enable them to speak, vote and be included within the quorum at meetings of the Area Committee on which they sit, when that Committee is determining applications submitted by the District/Borough Council on which they also serve, for funding from the County Community Fund allocation for that district area. The dispensations were granted until the date of the local government elections in 2009 and have therefore now expired.

Hambleton District Council's proposals for car parking charges: At its meeting on 2 June 2008, the Committee granted dispensations to eight County Councillors sitting on the County Committee for Hambleton to enable them to speak, vote and be included within the quorum at County Committee for Hambleton meetings when that Committee is determining issues pertinent to the County Council in respect of Hambleton District Council's proposals for car parking charges in the Hambleton District. The dispensations were granted until the date of the local government elections in 2009 and have therefore now expired.

Registration of village green at Helredale Playing Field, Whitby: At its meeting on 2 February 2009, the Committee granted dispensations to two County Councillors sitting on the Yorkshire Coast and Moors County Area Committee to enable them to speak, vote and be included within the quorum at Yorkshire Coast

and Moors County Area Committee meetings when that Committee is determining an application submitted by Helredale Neighbourhood Council for the registration of a village green at Helredale Playing Field, Whitby. At the same meeting, the Committee also granted a dispensation to one co-opted Member sitting on the Yorkshire Coast and Moors County Area Committee to enable him to speak at Yorkshire Coast and Moors County Area Committee meetings when that Committee is determining an application submitted by Helredale Neighbourhood Council for the registration of a village green at Helredale Playing Field, Whitby. The dispensations were granted until the application was determined or the date of the local government elections in 2009, whichever was the earlier.

Craven District Council's proposals for car parking charges: At its meeting on 23 April 2009, the Committee granted dispensations to five County Councillors sitting on Craven Area Committee to enable them to speak, vote and be included within the quorum at meetings of the Area Committee on which they sit, when that Committee is determining issues pertinent to the County Council, in respect of Craven District Council's proposals for car parking charges in the Craven district. At the same meeting, the Committee also granted a dispensation to one non-voting co-opted Member of the Craven Area Committee to enable him to speak at meetings of the Area Committee on which he sits, when that Committee is determining issues pertinent to the County Council, in respect of Craven District Council's proposals for car parking charges in the Craven district. The dispensations were granted until the date of the local government elections in 2009 and have therefore now expired.

Current Dispensations

- 3.2 Details of the current dispensations granted by the Committee and the extent to which they have so far been used by Members are set out below.
- 3.3 **Craven District Council's proposals for the introduction of pay and display car parking charges:** On 21 September 2009, a dispensation was granted by the Standards Committee to five County Councillors sitting on Craven Area Committee to enable them to speak, vote and be included within the quorum at meetings of Craven Area Committee, when that Committee is determining issues pertinent to the County Council, in respect of Craven District Council's proposals for the introduction of pay and display car parking charges for the car park at Craven Swimming Pool, Aireville Park, Skipton, North Street Car Park, Gargrave and Main Street Car Park, Embsay and all further proposals by Craven District Council relating to car parking charges in the Craven District. The dispensation was granted until the date of the local government elections in 2013.
- 3.4 **The implementation or review of off-street car park charges by Hambleton District Council:** On 1 February 2010, a dispensation was granted by the Standards Committee to eight County Councillors sitting on the County Committee for Hambleton to enable them to speak, vote and be included within the quorum at meetings of the County Committee for Hambleton when that Area Committee is determining issues pertinent to the County Council in respect of the implementation or review of off-street car park charges by Hambleton District Council. The dispensation was granted until the date of the local government elections in 2013.
- 3.5 Officers are currently compiling details of the extent to which the above dispensations have so far been used by the affected Members and an oral update will be provided to the Committee's meeting.
- 3.6 Members will continue to be briefed annually on the use of the dispensations granted by the Standards Committee.

4.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

4.1 That Members note this report.

CAROLE DUNN
Monitoring Officer

Background documents:

Reports to and minutes of Standards Committee meetings

County Hall
NORTHALLERTON

26 August 2010