

NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

2 March 2018

Dispensation Granted**1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To inform the Committee about a dispensation granted to a County Councillor by the Monitoring Officer under delegated powers.

2.0 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Monitoring Officer was designated by the County Council as Proper Officer to receive written requests by Members/voting Co-opted Members for a dispensation under section 33 Localism Act 2011 relieving them from either or both of the restrictions on participating in the discussion and vote on a matter where they have a disclosable pecuniary interest (DPI).
- 2.2 The power to grant dispensations to Members and voting Co-opted Members under the new ethical framework was delegated by the Council to this Committee, after consultation with the Independent Persons.
- 2.3 Power was also delegated to the Monitoring Officer to grant dispensations (after consultation with the Independent Persons) where the timescales are such that a Standards Committee meeting cannot be convened and where the Monitoring Officer has consulted every available Member of the Standards Committee, all of whom consent to the granting of the dispensation.

3.0 DISPENSATION GRANTED BY MONITORING OFFICER

- 3.1 On 6 December 2017, a dispensation was granted by the Monitoring Officer, under delegated powers, to County Councillor Paul Haslam, to enable him to speak at meetings of the County Area Committee for the Harrogate District when the Committee is considering business relating to the Harrogate Relief Road Review" until the date of the next local elections in 2021. The dispensation does not permit County Councillor Haslam to vote on such items of business.
- 3.2 The matter could not await the next scheduled meeting of the Standards Committee as there was an item on the agenda of the Area Committee's meeting the following day, 7 December 2017, regarding the Harrogate Relief Road project, which updated the Committee on the project and sought the Committee's views on the approach to the consultation.
- 3.3 Councillor Haslam has a disclosable pecuniary interest in items relating to the review as his home address is registered as a disclosable pecuniary interest (DPI) on his interests form and he would therefore have a DPI in the agenda item being considered at the meeting as certain of the options would involve the lane where he resides.
- 3.4 After consultation with the available members of the Standards Committee and Independent Persons, the Monitoring Officer granted the dispensation to speak as the dispensation is in the interests of persons living in the authority's area, the public

interest may favour local member participation and it is appropriate to grant the dispensation. The dispensation will last until the date of the local government elections in 2021.

4.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

4.1 That the Committee notes the dispensation granted by the Monitoring Officer under delegated powers to County Councillor Haslam on 6 December 2017.

BARRY KHAN

Assistant Chief Executive (Legal and Democratic Services) and Monitoring Officer

Background Papers:

None

County Hall
NORTHALLERTON

21 February 2018