

# STANDARDS COMMITTEE

## DISPENSATION PANEL

### Minutes of the meeting held on 31 October, 2012

<b>PRESENT:</b>	Mr. Michael Wilson (Chair), Mr. Islwyn Jones Mr. Leslie Lord
<b>IN ATTENDANCE:</b>	Head of Function (Legal & Administration)/Monitoring Officer, Committee Officer (MEH).
<b>APOLOGIES:</b>	None
<b>ALSO PRESENT:</b>	Councillor O. Glyn Jones - Applicant

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#### 1 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

There was no declaration of interest by a Member or Officer.

#### 2 APPLICATION FOR DISPENSATION

A report by the Monitoring Officer together with associated papers was submitted in relation to an application by Councillor O. Glyn Jones for dispensation to enable him speak as a local Member when a planning application is submitted by Tai Eryri to build social housing in Councillor Jones' Ward is presented to the Planning and Orders Committee for decision. It was noted that Councillor O. Glyn Jones is representing the County Council as Portfolio Holder for Housing on the Board of Tai Eryri. It was further noted that Councillor Jones is not a Member of the Planning and Orders Committee.

The Monitoring Officer reported that as a Member of the Board of Cymdeithas Tai Eryri, Councillor O. Glyn Jones would create a personal interest under Paragraph 10(2)(a)(viii) of the Code of Conduct. The interest is also likely to be prejudicial under Paragraph 12(1) of the Code of Conduct as the underlying project, which has developed into a planning application, was initiated by the Applicant although prior to his becoming a Member of the Board. Having advised the Chief Executive of Cymdeithas Tai Eryri that he will have no contact or influence on this application in his role as a Member of the Board, the Code of Conduct/Planning Procedure Rules enable the Applicant to undertake the local member role, both at community level and at Planning and Orders Committee, but this is subject to the following restrictions :-

1. The Planning Procedure Rules permit speaking at the Planning and Orders Committee, as local Member, but only entitles the Applicant to be present at the meeting in order to speak. He would then be required to withdraw from the meeting room.
2. By virtue of the prejudicial interest, the Applicant is precluded from communicating, orally or in writing, with any Council Officer in relation to the application.

Councillor Jones wishes to obtain a dispensation to remove these impediments as he believes it would better enable him to full serve the interests of his electorate and the community he is representing.

The Monitoring Officer reported that the Relevant Statutory Grounds in which a dispensation may be granted under the Standards Committee (Grant of Dispensation (Wales) Regulations 2001 are 2(d) and 2(f) :-

2(d) – ‘the nature of the member’s interest is such that the member’s participation in the business to which the interest relates would no damage public confidence in the conduct of the relevant authority’s business.’

2(f) – ‘the participation of the member in the business to which the interest relates is justified by the member’s particular role or expertise.’

Councillor O. Glyn Jones address the meeting and stated that he had been appointed on the Board of Cymdeithas Tai Eryri in his role as Portfolio Holder for Housing. He stated that he wished to represent the electorate of his Ward in his role as a County Councillor.

Having considered comments made by the Monitoring Officer and having asked questions for clarification purpose, the Chair announced that :-

The Standards Committee’s Dispensation Panel unanimously agreed to the following :-

- To grant Councillor O. Glyn Jones dispensation to participate in the discussion of the future planning application by Cymdeithas Tai Eryri within his Ward and thereafter at the Planning and Orders Committee;
- This dispensation is grated under Standards Committee (Grant of Dispensation)(Wales) Regulations 2001 – 2(d) and 2(f);
- The dispensation was granted until May 2013 and would need to be revisited due to the introduction of Multi-Member Wards representation following the County Councils elections in May 2013.

**MR. M. WILSON**  
**CHAIR**