

Meeting of:	Standards Committee
Date of Meeting:	Thursday, 27 March 2025
Relevant Scrutiny Committee:	No Relevant Scrutiny Committee
Report Title:	Applications for Dispensation
Purpose of Report:	To consider any applications for dispensation received
Report Owner:	Victoria Davidson, Monitoring Officer / Head of Legal and Democratic Services
Responsible Officer:	Karen Bowen, Principal Democratic and Scrutiny Services Officer
Elected Member and Officer Consultation:	This report does not involve any consultation with other parties
Policy Framework:	This report is a matter for consideration by the Standards Committee
<p>Executive Summary:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To consider applications for dispensation. • Applications for dispensation have been received in time for agenda despatch as attached at Appendix 1 to this report. • Should any further applications be received prior to the meeting taking place these will be forwarded to the Committee and uploaded to the Council's website. • It will be a matter for the Committee to consider any late applications after the agenda for the meeting has been despatched. 	

Recommendation

1. THAT the Standards Committee consider any application(s) received to date.

Reason for Recommendation

1. To comply with the regulations and obligations for the grant of dispensations to speak and vote at meetings.

1. Background

- 1.1 The Standards Committee Grant of Dispensations (Wales) Regulations 2001 permits Members to apply to Standards Committee to speak and, if appropriate, to vote on issues which due to prejudicial interests, they may not otherwise be able to speak or vote or remain in the room.
- 1.2 In order to deal with the applications as quickly as possible, it is necessary for the Standards Committee to receive full information of the interests involved and why in the Member's opinion dispensation should be given.
- 1.3 Applicants are advised that they are also able to attend the Standards Committee meeting to present their application if they wish to do so.

2. Key Issues for Consideration

- 2.1 Committee is advised that prior to the meetings of the Standards Committee all Town and Community Council Clerks and Elected Members of the Vale of Glamorgan Council are reminded by Democratic Services by email of the dates of meetings and that Members should consider whether there is a need to submit an application for dispensation to the Committee.
- 2.2 Committee is requested to consider and determine the applications for dispensation from the following Councillors as attached at Appendix 1 to this report
 - Vale of Glamorgan Council Councillor L. Burnett to speak, vote and remain in meetings where issues are raised at meetings of the Council (including budgets and Sustainable Communities for Learning) in respect of St Richard Gwyn High School.
 - Vale of Glamorgan Council Councillor R. Sivagnanam to speak and vote when matters concerning Community Centres are raised at any Council meetings in view of her being Chair of the Belle Vue Pavillion, Penarth.
- 2.3 The Standards Committee agreed that when applications for dispensation are required to be considered as a matter of urgency, the Monitoring Officer in consultation with the Chair of the Standards Committee be provided with the authority to consider such applications and to report to a future meeting such applications that have been agreed under this delegated authority. Since the last meeting no such applications have been received.

- 2.4 It is a matter for the Committee to consider whether to accept any late applications for dispensation received after the agenda has been despatched.

3. How do proposals evidence the Five Ways of Working and contribute to our Well-being Objectives?

- 3.1 One of the roles and functions of the Standards Committee (as detailed in the Council's Constitution) is to consider the granting of dispensations to Councillors, Co-opted Members and Church and Parent Governor Representatives from requirements relating to interests set out in the Members' Code of Conduct.

4. Climate Change and Nature Implications

- 4.1 None as a direct result of this report.

5. Resources and Legal Considerations

Financial

- 5.1 None as a direct result of this report.

Employment

- 5.2 None as a direct result of this report.

Legal (Including Equalities)

- 5.3 The Council is required to comply with the Standards Committee Grant of Dispensations (Wales) Regulations 2001.

6. Background Papers

Standards Committee Grant of Dispensations (Wales) Regulations 2001.

Circumstances When A Standards Committee May Grant Dispensations

The Standards Committees (Grant of Dispensations) (Wales) Regulations 2001 specifies that the Council's Standards Committee may grant dispensations under Section 81(4) of the Local Government Act 2000 where:

- (a) no fewer than half of the Members of the Council or of a committee of the Council (as the case may be) by which the business is to be considered has an interest which relates to that business;
- (b) no fewer than half of the Members of the Executive of the Council (i.e. Leader and Cabinet) by which the business is to be considered has an interest which relates to that business and either paragraph (d) or (e) also applies;
- (c) Members' inability to participate would upset the political balance of the Council, or any of its committees by which the business is to be considered, to such an extent that the outcome would be likely to be affected;
- (d) the nature of the Member's interest is such that the Member's participation in the business to which the interest relates would not damage public confidence in the conduct of the Council's business;
- (e) the interest is common to the Member and a significant proportion of the general public;
- (f) the participation of the Member in the business to which the interest relates is justified by the Member's particular role or expertise;
- (g) the registerable interest relates to business, which is to be considered by an Overview and Scrutiny Committee of the Council, and the Member's interest is not a pecuniary/financial interest;
- (h) the business relates to the finances or property of a voluntary organisation of whose management committee or board the Member is a member otherwise than as a representative of the Council and the Member has no other interest in that business, provided that any dispensation shall not extend to participation in any vote with respect to that business;
- (i) it appears to the Standards Committee to be in the interests of the inhabitants of the area of the Council that the disability should be removed; or
- (j) it appears to the Standards Committee to be otherwise appropriate to grant a dispensation. [If this circumstance is relied upon it will be required to be reviewed on a 12 month basis – Local Government (Standards Committees, Investigations, Dispensations and Referral) (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2016 (3(1)A)]

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL
STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Application for a Dispensation to the Standards Committee under Section 2 of the Standards Committees (Grant of Dispensations) (Wales) Regulations 2001

Name of Councillor	Cllr Lis Burnett
Address	[REDACTED]
Name of Member's relevant Authority and Ward	Stanwell Ward, Vale of Glamorgan Council
Nature of Dispensation sought	<p>This application is in replacement of an earlier dispensation for the same children who have moved school.</p> <p>Dispensation to Speak, Vote and remain in meetings where issues are raised at meetings of the Council (including budgets and Sustainable Communities for Learning) in respect of Oak Field Primary and St Richard Gwyn High School</p> <p>I was granted dispensation previously for the same children which expired in my 2022</p>
Date of meeting / issue to be discussed (if known)	Whenever the matter is to be discussed at a meeting.
Do you seek a dispensation just for the one meeting or for a longer period? If longer, please state a period. <i>(N.B. All dispensations granted expire at the next Council elections.)</i>	Until the next Local Government Election in May 2027
Level of dispensation sought <i>(i.e. to speak only or to speak and vote)</i>	Dispensation to Speak, Vote and Remain in meetings where issues are raised (including budgets) are considered (as I am a Leader of the Council and responsible for financial decisions), relating to School budgets, albeit it is rare that this could occur (it has never been the case thus far). However, when considering school budgets, by implication, any decision could affect any school.

	<p>I attend Cabinet and Council when setting budgets all aspects of the Council are considered and this by implication could refer to any school. I also attend Scrutiny Committees where these budgets could be and often are discussed. I also attend School Budget Forum annually to hear the views of schools during the budget setting process and again by implication Oak Field Primary / St Richard Gwyn High School I respectfully request this dispensation.</p>
<p>Relevant paragraph(s) under which dispensation can be granted (See (a) to (j) overleaf)</p>	<p>I refer you to the issues raised below but specifically (d), (e), (f) and (i)</p> <p>The Standards Committees (Grant of Dispensations) (Wales) Regulations 2001 specifies that the Council's Standards Committee may grant dispensations under Section 81(4) of the Local Government Act 2000 where:</p> <p>(d) the nature of the Member's interest is such that the Member's participation in the business to which the interest relates would not damage public confidence in the conduct of the Council's business;</p> <p>I consider that being a great aunt of a child in any school would arguably not be considered to be a prejudicial interest and dispensation in this instance and would not damage public confidence. I would assume this would apply to many Members of the Council who have family members who attend Vale of Glamorgan Council Schools.</p> <p>(e) The interest is common to the Member and significant portion of the general public;</p> <p>I consider this to be relevant as a significant number of people have family members attending Vale of Glamorgan Council Schools.</p> <p>(f) The participation of the Member in the business to which the interest relates is justified by the Member's particular role or expertise;</p> <p>As a Member of this Council for 14 years and the experience and positions I have and currently hold, I consider that this qualifies me for a dispensation.</p> <p>(i) It appears to the Standards Committee to be in the interests of the inhabitants of the area of the Council that the disability should be removed;</p> <p>I consider that as I am Leader of the Council that this reference is particularly relevant as it would be to any Member of the Council who has any family members attending Vale of Glamorgan Council Schools.</p>

<p>Details of the Prejudicial Interest</p>	<p>My great-nieces and great nephew attend Oakfield Primary / St Richard Gwyn High School</p>
<p>Details of any Position of responsibility / control held on your Council (e.g. <i>Chairman / Vice-Chairman / Cabinet Member</i>)</p>	<p>Leader of the Council and Councillor for Stanwell Ward</p>
<p>Reason(s) to support the application and why you consider the Standards Committee should grant a dispensation</p> <p><i>(Use a separate sheet of paper if necessary)</i></p>	<p>I believe that I have covered this above, but in summary, as my great-nieces and great nephew are pupils in a Vale of Glamorgan school and are no different to any other child attending any school in the Vale of Glamorgan it has no prejudicial influence on any aspect of my work as Leader of the Council or indeed as a Councillor</p>

SIGNED: Lis Burnett (By email)

DATED: 18/03/2025

Each section of the form MUST be fully completed.

(N.B. If you are submitting your application form electronically, without a signature, please give written permission for the receiving officer to sign the application form on your behalf. **Failure to do this will result in the application being deemed incomplete and returned to the applicant.)**

SIGNATURE OF OFFICER (IF APPROPRIATE):

*Please return completed form to:
Democratic and Scrutiny Services, Directorate of Resources, Room 26, 1st Floor,
Civic Offices, Holton Road, Barry, CF63 4RU*

**THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL
STANDARDS COMMITTEE**

**Application for a Dispensation to the Standards Committee under Section 2 of
the Standards Committees (Grant of Dispensations) (Wales) Regulations 2001**

Name of Councillor	Ruba Sivagnanam
Address	[REDACTED]
Name of Member's relevant Authority and Ward	St Augustine's
Nature of Dispensation sought	I am currently Chair of the Belle Vue Pavillion, Penarth. I would like dispensation to speak and vote on Community Centres where raised at any Council meetings
Date of meeting / issue to be discussed (if known)	n/a
Do you seek a dispensation just for the one meeting or for a longer period? If longer, please state a period. <i>(N.B. All dispensations granted expire at the next Council elections.)</i>	The duration of my membership of of the executive body of Belle Vue Pavillion
Level of dispensation sought <i>(i.e. to speak only or to speak and vote)</i>	Speak and vote
Relevant paragraph(s) under which dispensation can be granted <i>(See (a) to (j) overleaf)</i>	d, f, g

<p>Details of the Prejudicial Interest</p>	<p>I am currently Chair of the committee of Belle Vue Pavillion</p>
<p>Details of any Position of responsibility / control held on your Council (e.g. <i>Chairman / Vice-Chairman / Cabinet Member</i>)</p>	<p>I am Cabinet Member for Community Engagement, Equalities and Regulatory Services</p>
<p>Reason(s) to support the application and why you consider the Standards Committee should grant a dispensation</p> <p><i>(Use a separate sheet of paper if necessary)</i></p>	<p>As a local member and the Chair, it is important that I be able to advocate on behalf of both the Committee and my ward (in which Belle Vue sits). There is no financial or other pecuniary gain in my role as Chair and not to speak or vote on matters concerning the Pavillion would disadvantage the Pavillion and my community.</p>

SIGNED: R Sivagnanam

DATED: 19/03/25

Each section of the form MUST be fully completed.

(N.B. If you are submitting your application form electronically, without a signature, please give written permission for the receiving officer to sign the application form on your behalf. **Failure to do this will result in the application being deemed incomplete and returned to the applicant.)**

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