

3. GROUNDS FOR DISPENSATION

Regulations issued by the National Assembly for Wales prescribe the circumstances in which the Standards Committee may grant a dispensation. These grounds for granting a dispensation are summarised below and are set out in full in the attached guidance notes. On which of the following grounds do you believe that a dispensation should be granted in this case? Please tick the appropriate box(es).

• at least half of the members considering the business has an interest	<input type="checkbox"/>
• my inability to participate would upset the political balance of the meeting to such an extent that the outcome would be likely to be affected;	<input type="checkbox"/>
• my participation would not damage public confidence	x <input type="checkbox"/>
• the interest is common to me and a significant proportion of the general public;	<input type="checkbox"/>
• my participation in the business is justified by my particular role or expertise;	<input type="checkbox"/>
• the business is to be considered by an overview and scrutiny committee and my interest is not a pecuniary interest;	<input type="checkbox"/>
• the business relates to the finances or property of a voluntary organisation of whose management committee or board I am a member and I have no other interest	<input type="checkbox"/>
• it is appropriate to do so in all the circumstances where not otherwise possible to make reasonable adjustments to accommodate a person's disability	<input type="checkbox"/>

4. INFORMATION IN SUPPORT OF YOUR APPLICATION

Please set out below the reasons why you consider that the Standards Committee should grant a dispensation in this case:

(Please note that failure to complete this section will result in the application form being returned to you)

Carmarthenshire Energy Limited is a Community Benefit Society founded in 2012 following a year of consultation with communities, businesses, councillors and officers. The Society aims to support community groups and those suffering from fuel poverty and concerned about energy security and climate change; creating renewable energy projects run for people not profit, with any surplus generated reinvested in the local economy.

The Society has completed the installation of its first renewable energy project; a 500kW wind turbine that produces clean, low carbon energy. In October 2019 they issued a Share Offer of £100,000 to repay the final loan received for the cost of construction. People were encouraged to become a new member to increase the Society's voice in dealing with our climate emergency, and the Society is in a position to offer all members a fair return on funds.

The Society's structure is based on other successful renewable societies across the UK, including several community owned wind turbines and it has an excellent long standing relationship with the landowner at Salem, near Llandeilo in Carmarthenshire. Each subscriber, whatever the relevant stake, automatically becomes an equal member of the Society on a 'one member, one vote' basis.

The Society's purpose is to generate low-carbon electricity and to benefit the local community. Energy generated by this wind turbine goes into the local grid and it is estimated that the project displaces the equivalent of 820 tonnes of carbon dioxide every year.

I require dispensation to speak and make written representations because the reason I joined the Society is to help increase its voice in dealing with the current climate emergency facing our planet. This I believe is fully in line with Carmarthenshire County Council's corporate vision and core values: having declared a climate emergency in the Spring of 2019, followed by a Council decision in Autumn 2019 to request that Dyfed Pension Fund disinvest from organisations involved in fossil fuel extraction.

Thus, going forward, all decisions taken by the County Council will be seen through the prism of this climate emergency and for this reason I don't think that my participation in any debates or discussions would damage public confidence.

Society has woken up to the need to protect our planet and I have joined Carmarthenshire Energy Company primarily to play my very small part in protecting the planet. As a County Councillor I want to play a possible larger part by being able to speak and make written representations on issues that affect our climate. Now that Carmarthenshire County Council has declared a climate emergency this subject is going to dominate Council business for years to come and I believe I have a lot to offer inside and outside the chamber that I hope will help inform our deliberations, thus I request this dispensation.

(please continue on a separate sheet if necessary)

I confirm that the information provided on this form is true to the best of my knowledge. I agree that this application and all the information contained within it may form part of a public report to the Standards Committee. I request a dispensation in respect of the above matter.

Signed:

Date: / 2020

Please return this form to the Monitoring Officer, Chief Executive's Department, Carmarthenshire County Council, County Hall, Carmarthen, SA31 1JP.

Guidance notes

- (1)** Please read through the Code of Conduct and decide which of the paragraphs is most appropriate to your case. Brief details of the relevant paragraphs are noted in the table below. If you are unsure, please contact the Monitoring Officer for advice.

Para.	Type of personal interest	
10(2)(a)	Council business which relates to or is likely to affect: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • your employment or business, • your employer, firm or company • a contract made between the Council and you • any land, lease or licence in which you have an interest • a public body or other association in which you have membership or hold a position of general control or management 	
10(2)(c)	Council business which affects your well-being or financial position, or the well-being, financial position or other interests of a person with whom you live or have a close personal association	
13	Council business which is being considered by an Overview and Scrutiny Committee and which relates to a decision of the Cabinet or another Committee of which you were a member at the time [County Council only]	

- (2)** The Standards Committees (Grant of Dispensations)(Wales) Regulations 2001(as amended) state that a Standards Committee may grant dispensations where:

- (a) no fewer than half of the members of the relevant authority or of a committee of the authority (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 a leader and cabinet executive of the relevant authority 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) in the case of a county or county borough council, the inability of the member to participate would upset the political balance of the relevant authority or of the committee of the authority 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 relevant authority'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 business to which the interest relates is to be considered by an overview and scrutiny committee of the relevant authority and the member's interest is not a pecuniary interest;
- (h) the business which is to be considered 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 relevant authority 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; or

- (i) it appears to the committee to be in the interests of the inhabitants of the area of the relevant authority that the disability should be removed provided that written notification of the grant of the dispensation is given to the National Assembly for Wales within seven days in such manner as it may specify.
- (j) It is considered appropriate in all the circumstances to do so where not otherwise possible to make reasonable adjustments to accommodate a persons disability