

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

06/07/2023

DISPENSATION APPLICATION BY COUNCILLOR NEIL LEWIS

Purpose: To consider the application and determine whether to grant dispensation

To consider and comment on the following issues:

- To decide whether to grant the dispensation application

Reasons:

- Cllr Lewis has a personal and prejudicial interest which would otherwise prevent him participating in this council business

CABINET MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER: Not Applicable

Directorate

Name of Head of Service:

Linda Rees Jones

Report Author:

Robert Edgecombe

Designations:

Head of Administration and Law

Legal Services Manager

Tel Nos.

01267 224012

LRJones@carmarthenshire.gov.uk

01267 224018

rjedgeco@carmarthenshire.gov.uk

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
STANDARDS COMMITTEE
06/07/2023

Dispensation Application by Cllr Neil Lewis

County Councillor Neil Lewis has submitted a dispensation request to speak, vote, make written representations and exercise executive powers in relation to council business regarding renewable energy, electric vehicles, energy efficiency and decarbonisation.

Councillor Lewis would have a personal and prejudicial interest in such business as he has personal involvement in several organisations operating in these fields in the county

Councillor Lewis seeks dispensation on the following grounds in Regulation 2(2) of the Standards Committees (Grant of Dispensations)(Wales) Regulations 2001

(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;

It does not appear however that grounds (a),(b), (c) or (e) are applicable in this case. Also as Cllr Lewis is not a member of the Cabinet, he has no executive functions to exercise.

If the committee is minded to grant Cllr Lewis's request it will need to determine the duration of that dispensation

DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED ?	NO
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IMPLICATIONS

I confirm that other than those implications which have been agreed with the appropriate Directors / Heads of Service and are referred to in detail below, there are no other implications associated with this report :

Signed: Linda Rees-Jones

Head of Administration and Law

Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities	Legal	Finance	ICT	Risk Management Issues	Staffing Implications	Physical Assets
NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE

CONSULTATIONS

I confirm that the appropriate consultations have taken in place and the outcomes are as detailed below

Signed: *LRJones*

Head of Administration and Law

1. **Scrutiny Committee** – not applicable
2. **Local Member(s)** - not applicable
3. **Community / Town Council** - not applicable
4. **Relevant Partners** - not applicable
5. **Staff Side Representatives and other Organisations** - not applicable

CABINET MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER(S) AWARE/CONSULTED
NO

N/A

Section 100D Local Government Act, 1972 – Access to Information List of Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:

There are none.