

Meeting of:	EXTRA ORDINARY MEETING OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE
Date of Meeting:	14 JULY 2025
Report Title:	REQUEST FOR DISPENSATION
Report Owner / Corporate Director:	MONITORING OFFICER
Responsible Officer:	LAURA GRIFFITHS GROUP MANAGER LEGAL AND DEMOCRATIC SERVICES
Policy Framework and Procedure Rules:	There is no effect upon the Policy Framework and Procedure Rules.
Executive Summary:	To advise Members of an application received for a dispensation.

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To advise the Standards Committee of an application received from Cllr Ian Spiller for special dispensation to speak at the next meeting of Laleston Community Council.

2. Background

- 2.1 The Members Code of Conduct was adopted by the Council in September 2008. All Councillors are required to sign an undertaking to abide by the provisions of the Code as part of their declaration of acceptance of office. The Standards Committee has statutory responsibility under the Local Government Act 2000 for monitoring compliance with the Code.
- 2.2 Under Paragraph 14 of the Code of Conduct, where a Member has a personal interest which is prejudicial, the Member will be prevented from participating in Council business relating to that matter unless there is a saving provision within the Code, or the Standards Committee grant special dispensation.
- 2.3 The Committee can grant dispensations in accordance with the Standards Committees Grant of Dispensation (Wales) Regulations 2001 and Section 81(4) of the Local Government Act 2000. The circumstances in which dispensations may be granted are outlined below for information:

(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;
- (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.

3. Current situation / proposal

- 3.1 The Monitoring Officer has received an application from Cllr Ian Spiller to enable him to speak at the next meeting of Laleston Community Council on 17 July 2025 as a matter of clarification in relation to minutes of a previous meeting held on 19 June 2025 whereby Cllr Spiller declared a prejudicial interest in accordance with the Code. The application for dispensation is presented as **Appendix 1**.
- 3.2 The Standards Committee can grant such dispensations in accordance with the 2001 Regulations and the 2000 Act as outlined at paragraph 2.3 of the report. The Committee can grant or refuse the application for special dispensation. If the dispensation is granted, then the Committee can impose conditions or restrictions, if they think fit.
- 3.3 If the dispensation is granted, the Member would still declare their prejudicial interest and disclose the nature of the dispensation relied upon before participating in the matter.

4. Equality implications (including Socio-economic Duty and Welsh Language)

- 4.1 The protected characteristics identified within the Equality Act 2010, Socio-economic Duty and the impact on the use of the Welsh Language have been considered in the preparation of this report. As a public body in Wales, the Council must consider the impact of strategic decisions, such as the development or the review of policies, strategies, services and functions. It is considered that there will be no significant or unacceptable equality impacts as a result of this report.

5. Well-being of Future Generations implications and connection to Corporate Well-being Objectives

- 5.1 The well-being goals identified in the Act were considered in the preparation of this report. It is considered that there will be no significant or unacceptable impacts upon the achievement of well-being goals/objectives as a result of this report. This report also assists in the achievement of the following well-being objective under the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015:-

A county borough where people feel valued, heard and part of their community.

- 5.2 Standards are an implicit requirement in the successful implementation of the corporate well-being objectives.

6. Climate Change and Nature Implications

- 6.1 There are no climate change and nature implications.

7. Safeguarding and Corporate Parent Implications

- 7.1 There are no safeguarding and corporate parent implications.

8. Financial Implications

- 8.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report.

9. Recommendation

- 9.1 The Committee is recommended to consider the application attached as Appendix 1 and determine whether the dispensation should be granted.

Background documents

None