

Committee: STANDARDS COMMITTEE
Date: 21 MARCH 2005
Agenda Item No: 5
Title: REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS
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Summary

- 1 Members will recall that a report was submitted to this Committee in April 2003 setting out the circumstances where the Committee could grant dispensations permitting Members of the Council or its Committees to take part in meetings notwithstanding the fact that they would be otherwise prevented from doing so by virtue of the Code of Conduct
- 2 This report is to advise Members of requests received and likely to be received for dispensations from Members of the Council

Background

- 3 As part of the review of the Council's waste management strategy officers are requesting that Members of the Environment Committee consider levying charges for the collection of trade waste from Town and Parish Council Offices, village halls and similar buildings.
- 4 More than one half of the Members of the Environment Committee and of the Council are Town or Parish Councillors or members of village hall management committees. As the proposals have a direct effect upon the finances of Town and Parish Councils, village halls etc the interest would be prejudicial requiring Members to withdraw. Indeed this happened at the meeting of the Environment Committee on 8 March leaving the Committee barely quorate with only 4 Members able to remain in the room.
- 6 At the date of the preparation of this report three applications for dispensations have been received and it is anticipated that more will follow. This Committee will need to consider each application and determine whether to grant a dispensation, if so how long the dispensation should last and whether it should extend to speaking and voting or merely speaking.

RECOMMENDED that Members

- a) determine whether to grant dispensations in respect of any applications received by the date of the Committee meeting and if so on what terms

- b) if dispensations are granted whether the Committee wishes to offer any guidance to Members as to the conduct of any meetings when the dispensations are used.

Background Papers: None