

Minutes of the Meeting of the Dispensation Sub-Committee Held on Wednesday 14 October 2009

Present:

Mr R Bearman
Mr P Gibbs - Chairman
Canon E Turner

1. Apologies

There were no apologies for absence.

2. Election of Chairman

Mr Gibbs was elected Chairman for the meeting.

3. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

4. Consideration of a Request from Members for a Dispensation

The report of the Head of Law and Monitoring Officer was received.

The Committee considered individual written requests from nine Members of the County Council's Cabinet Scrutiny Committee for a dispensation from the rule in the Members' Code of Conduct which prevented them from debating and voting on an item in which they have a prejudicial interest. The dispensation was requested to allow them to discuss and vote on an item suggested for the Cabinet Scrutiny Committee Forward Work Programme on the implications of membership of Norfolk County Council and a district council.

The following points were discussed by the Sub-Committee:

- The number of Members prohibited from voting (more than 50% of the Cabinet Scrutiny Committee) would upset the decision making process and furthermore political balance would be upset to the extent that the outcome would be prejudiced if dispensation were not granted.
- These Members had been elected as both district and county councillors and should be permitted to make their case.
- A dispensation had been granted previously to all Members of the Council when a similar prejudicial interest arose then it followed that similar arguments applied and it should be granted for members of the Cabinet Scrutiny Committee.

The Sub-Committee decided in light of the above and relevant regulations and guidance that it was prepared to grant dispensation to the following Members of Cabinet Scrutiny Committee:

Mr J Joyce
Mr J Dobson
Mr A Adams
Mr P Duigan
Mr M Kiddle-Morris
Mr T White
Mr C Jordan
Mr J Shrimplin
Mr M J Wilby

The dispensation should apply to any discussion or scrutiny by those Members on the Committee or as part of a working group of that Committee on the topic of "Implications of Membership of Norfolk County Council and a district council" and would apply until the scrutiny process in relation to that matter was concluded.

The Chairman reminded all Members to go into the debate with an open mind.

The meeting commenced at 12.35am and ended at 12.55am

Chairman

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