

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

MUNICIPAL YEAR 2015-2016

STANDARDS COMMITTEE
29 January 2016

	AGENDA ITEM NO.3(d)
APPLICATION FOR DISPENSATION - COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCILLOR K. MONTAGUE	

REPORT OF THE MONITORING OFFICER

Author : Mr. P. J. Lucas (Tel: 01443 424105)

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To enable the Committee to decide whether or not to grant a dispensation to County Borough Councillor Kieron Montague (Deputy Leader of the Council). The requested dispensation would enable him to speak at meetings of the Cabinet and Voluntary Sector Liaison Steering Group where the business to be considered concerns approving applications (which may be made by groups or organisations of which he is a member) to the Council's Community Enabling Fund, which forms part of the 'RCT Together' initiative or via the Council's concessionary lettings process.

2. RECOMMENDATION

To consider granting County Borough Councillor Kieron Montague a dispensation to speak at Cabinet and Voluntary Sector Liaison Steering Group meetings on all matters concerning approval of applications (including applications from groups or organisations of which he is a member) to the Council's Community Enabling Fund which forms part of the 'RCT Together' initiative or via the Council's concessionary lettings process in view of his role and capacity as the relevant Cabinet Member portfolio holder for Tackling Poverty, Engagement & Housing which includes responsibility for voluntary sector funding and support.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Paragraph 14 of the Code of Conduct sets out the procedures to be followed regarding participation in meetings when a Member has declared a personal and prejudicial interest.
- 3.2 However the participation by a Member in any business which is prohibited by Paragraph 14 is not a failure to comply with the Code if the Member has acted in accordance with a dispensation from the prohibition granted by the Standards Committee in accordance with regulations.

- 3.3 The relevant regulations are the Standards Committee (Grant of Dispensations) (Wales) Regulations 2001 (the 'Regulations'). The Regulations set out the circumstances in which dispensations may be granted.
- 3.4 As part of Cllr's Montague's role he liaises and assists both individuals and groups by co-ordinating support with their applications to the 'RCT Together' process as well as providing support to local constituents and groups that he is a member of, in completing applications and Expressions of Interest to the process and to the Community Enabling Fund.
- 3.5 As part of his portfolio he chairs the Voluntary Sector Liaison Steering Group which considers applications received to the RCT Together process and the Community Enabling Fund, and as a group recommends to Cabinet whether applications should be progressed by Cabinet or whether they should be considered through the Council's concessionary lettings process.
- 3.6 Cllr Montague states in his application for dispensation that by virtue of being the relevant Cabinet Member portfolio holder for Tackling Poverty, Engagement & Housing (which includes responsibility for voluntary sector funding and support) that his ability to be able to speak at Cabinet and Voluntary Sector Liaison Steering Group meetings in relation to items of business that concern approval of applications to the Council's Community Enabling Fund which forms part of the 'RCT Together' initiative or via the Council's concessionary letting process is justified.
- 3.7 On this basis Cllr Montague wishes to seek a dispensation to speak at Cabinet and Voluntary Sector Liaison Steering Group meetings in relation to items of business concerning approval of applications to the Council's Community Enabling Fund which forms part of the 'RCT Together' initiative.
- 3.8 One of the grounds within the Regulations which states a Standards Committee may grant a dispensation is where:-
- “the participation of the Member in the business to which the interest relates is justified by the Member's particular role or expertise.”
- 3.9 For the avoidance of doubt Cllr Montague is not seeking to be able to vote on the above mentioned matters for which he now seeks a dispensation from the Committee.

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

29th JANUARY 2016

BACKGROUND PAPERS

APPLICATION FOR DISPENSATION COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCILLOR K.MONTAGUE	Officer to contact: Mr.P.J.Lucas Tel: 01443 424105
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Freestanding Matter