

Southend-on-Sea Borough Council

Agenda
Item No.

Report of Corporate Director for Corporate Services
to
Standards Committee
on
19th February 2015

Report prepared by: John Williams,
Head of Legal & Democratic Services

Requests for Dispensations

A Part 1 Public Agenda Item

1. Purpose of Report

For the Standards Committee to consider and determine applications for dispensations under S.30 Localism Act 2011 submitted by Councillors Assenheim and Betson.

2. Recommendations

That the Standards Committee determines:

- **Whether the dispensations are required;**
- **Whether to grant the dispensations;**
- **Whether the dispensations should extend to voting as well as participation in debate; and**
- **The length of time the dispensations should operate for.**

3. Background

3.1 The Standards Committee at its meeting on 15th January 2015 considered applications for dispensations under Section 30 of the Localism Act 2011 that had been submitted by Councillors McMahon and Butler as Council appointed board members of South Essex Homes (SEH). The Committee's decision to grant dispensations to both speak and vote up until 9th October 2016 is set out in Minute 559 (**Appendix 1**). A copy of the report to the Standards Committee is attached at **Appendix 2**.

3.2 The remaining two Council appointed board members of SEH, namely Councillors Assenheim and Betson, were granted dispensations by the Standards Committee at its meeting on 10th October 2012 to enable them to

Speak but not to vote (Minute 403 refers). These dispensations were for a period of four years expiring on 9th October 2016.

- 3.3 In accordance with Minute 559(4), Councillors Assenheim & Betson have now submitted applications to extend their dispensations to include voting rights in line with the decisions of the Committee at its meeting on 15th January 2015 in respect of Councillors McMahon and Butler.

The applications by Councillors Assenheim and Betson are attached at **Appendix 3.**

4. Other Options

The Committee can agree the applications as it thinks fit.

5. Reasons for Recommendations

Not applicable.

6. Corporate Implications

6.1 Contribution to Council's Vision & Corporate Priorities

Excellent Council / Good Governance

6.2 Financial Implications

None

6.3 Legal Implications

As set out in the report

6.4 People Implications

None

6.5 Property Implications

None

6.6 Consultation

Not applicable

6.7 Equalities and Diversity Implications

No issues

6.8 Risk Assessment

The Committee must determine the applications properly

6.9 Value for Money

No issues

6.10 Community Safety Implications

No issues

6.11 Environmental Impact

No issues

7. Background Papers

Localism Act 2011

8. Appendices

Appendix 1 – Minutes of the meeting of the Standards Committee held on 15th January 2015

Appendix 2 – Report to meeting of the Standards Committee held on 15th January 2015

Appendix 3 – Applications for dispensations submitted by Councillors Assenheim and Betson