

SOUTHEND-ON-SEA BOROUGH COUNCIL

Meeting of Standards Committee

Date: Thursday, 19th February, 2015

Place: Civic 1 (Civic Centre), Vic Avenue, Cttee Rm 2

Present: Councillor M Royston (Chairman)
Councillors B Ayling (Vice-Chairman), A J Crystall, *C Endersby, F Evans, J W Moyies, K R Robinson

Mrs J Tetley (Independent Person)

Councillor M Cotgrove (Leigh Town Council), Mrs J Morgan (Independent Person), Mrs J Tetley (Independent Person)

In Attendance: J K Williams and R Harris.

Start/End Time: 18.00/18.10

**** **Part I**

654 Apologies and substitutions.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Flewitt (no substitute), Councillor Ward (substitute: Cllr Endersby), Councillor Mulroney (Leigh Town Council), Councillor M Cotgrove (Leigh Town Council), Mrs J Morgan (Independent Person).

655 Declarations of interest.

The following declarations of interest were made at the meeting:

(a) Councillor Ayling - Agenda Item 3 - Requests for Dispensations - Non-pecuniary interest - Committee had previously granted dispensation to him;

656 Requests for Dispensations

The Committee considered a report of the Corporate Director for Corporate Services regarding applications for dispensations under S.30 of the Localism Act 2011 that had been submitted by Councillors Assenheim and Betson, who are Council appointed Board members of South Essex Homes Ltd (SEH).

The Committee noted that:

(i) In accordance with the invitation in Minute 559, Resolution 4, of the Standards Committee held on 15th January 2015 (Appendix 1 to the submitted report) Councillors Assenheim and Betson have submitted applications to extend their dispensations to include voting rights and;

(ii) Board Members owe a legal duty of good faith to SEH and must act in the best interests of the company at all times. This is reinforced by the provisions of sections 170-177 of the Companies Act 2006. Any dispensations granted by the Committee does not override such legal obligations on the Councillors concerned.

Resolved:

1. That dispensations are required by the applicants.
2. That dispensations be granted to Councillors Assenheim and Betson to enable them to participate, speak and vote at all Council meetings where South Essex Homes Ltd. (SEH) business is considered and they would otherwise have to withdraw. In reaching this decision, the Committee recognised that the knowledge and expertise of the Councillors would be of considerable benefit to the Council and there would be no damage to public confidence.
3. That these dispensations shall operate until 9th October 2016.

Chairman: _____