

Item no.

Report to: **Standards Committee**
Date: **Friday, 31st March, 2006**
Report of: **Monitoring Officer**
Subject: **Request for Dispensation from Horden Parish Council**
Ward: **Horden**

1. **Purpose of the Report**

To consider a request for dispensation from the obligation to declare prejudicial interest in connection with a report to be considered by Horden Parish Council relating to charges to be levied for use of a room by the Horden Regeneration Partnership.

2. **Consultation**

I attached copy of a letter from Samantha Shippen, Clerk to Horden Parish Council dated 9th March, 2006 which she had written after discussion with me relating to the need for dispensation.

3. **Background**

Horden Parish Council need to determine the charges to be levied for use of a room in their ownership by the Horden Regeneration Partnership. Eleven of the fifteen Members of the Council are involved in one way or another in the Regeneration Partnership creating prejudicial interests which application of the Code would prevent them participating in the discussion. Insufficient Members would be available to constitute a quorum to make a decision.

The Clerk has confirmed that none of the Councillors receive any monetary benefit from the Regeneration Partnership.

The Relevant Authorities Standards Committee (Dispensations) Regulations 2002 permit the Standards Committee to grant dispensation in those circumstances if they consider that the transaction of the Council's business would be impeded as a result of the Code of Conduct and if in all the circumstances of the case they consider it appropriate to grant dispensation.

4. **Implications**

4.1 **Policy**

None.

4.2 **Financial**

None.

4.3 **Legal**

None.

4.4 **Risk**

The Parish Clerk and I are satisfied that granting dispensation to permit the Parish Council Members to determine this report is thoroughly justified.

4.5 **Communications**

None

4.6 **Corporate Implications**

None

4.7 **Equality and Diversity**

None

4.8 **Procurement**

None

4.9 **Electronic Service Delivery**

None

5. **Recommendation**

The Standards Committee is recommended to grant the dispensation for Horden Parish Council to debate and vote on the question of the charges to be levied for use of a room by the Horden Regeneration Partnership.

Background Papers

Letter of application dated 9th March, 2006 from the Parish Clerk at Horden Parish Council.