

**Standards Committee**

20 November 2009

**Request for Dispensation From  
Horden Parish Council**

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**Report of Colette Longbottom, Head of Legal and Democratic  
Services and Monitoring Officer**

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**Purpose of the Report**

- 1 To consider a request (copy attached) from Horden Parish Council for a dispensation under the Standards Committee (Further Provisions) (England) Order 2009, permitting Members to speak and vote despite the existence of a prejudicial interest in business affecting the Horden Regeneration Partnership.

**Background**

- 2 A Standards Committee can grant a dispensation to a Member where more than 50% of the Members of the Council who would be entitled to vote at a meeting are prohibited from voting, or where the number of Members that are prohibited from voting at a meeting would upset the political balance of the meeting to the extent that the outcome of the voting would be prejudiced.

Horden Parish Council is comprised of fifteen elected Members, nine of whom are affiliated with the Horden Regeneration Partnership. Those nine Members would, therefore, have a personal and prejudicial interest in the request received from the Partnership for a donation to sustain their continuance until 2010, pending receipt of further funding from other sources.

This kind of request has been submitted and approved previously from other Parish Councils by the former District Council's Standards Committees.

**Recommendations and Reasons**

- 3 The Standards Committee is recommended to grant a dispensation to those Members of Horden Parish Council who are affiliated with the Horden Regeneration Partnership permitting them to participate and vote on any future Parish Council Business concerning the Horden Regeneration Partnership. This dispensation shall continue until the next Parish Elections in 2013.

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**Contact: David Taylor Deputy Monitoring Officer 0191 383 3509**

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