

## Standards Committee

17 February 2012



## Request for Dispensation from Eldon Parish Council

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### Report of Colette Longbottom, Head of Legal and Democratic Services

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#### Purpose of the Report

1. To consider a request (copy attached as Appendix 1) from Councillor R Scaife of Eldon 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 Eldon Community Partnership.

#### Background

2. A Standards Committee can grant a dispensation to a Member where more than 50% of the Members of the Council who have been entitled to attend 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 voting would be prejudiced.
3. Eldon Parish Council is comprised of 5 elected Members. In May 2010 three Members (Councillors G Pennington, V Chapman and J Gibson) were granted a dispensation due to being affiliated with the Eldon Community Partnership. A request for dispensation has now been received from Councillor R Scaife of Eldon Parish Council who is also now affiliated with the Eldon Community Partnership.
4. This kind of request has been previously submitted by other Parish Councils and approved by Standards Committee.

#### Recommendations and Reasons

5. Standards Committee is recommended to grant a dispensation to Councillor R Scaife of Eldon Parish Council who is affiliated with the Eldon Community Partnership, permitting her to participate and vote on any future Parish Council business concerning the Eldon Community Partnership, as has previously been granted to Eldon Parish Councillors Pennington, Chapman and Gibson. This dispensation shall continue until the next Parish Elections in 2013.

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