

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Date of Meeting	Monday, 10 th May 2021
Report Subject	Review of Dispensation Procedures at Conwy, Denbighshire and Wrexham Councils
Report Author	Deputy Monitoring Officer

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

There are no statutory procedures in place for dealing with applications for dispensations and every Standards Committee implements its own arrangements.

The Committee considered that it would be useful to explore what processes other Councils in North Wales have for dealing with applications for dispensations. A report was considered by the Committee in September 2020 in respect of dispensations at Anglesey County Council and Gwynedd County Council with a focus on applications during 2019/20. This report reviews the dispensations dealt with at Conwy, Denbighshire and Wrexham Councils (the councils).

The report will identify the number of applications dealt with between 2019 and 2021 at the councils, including the process and procedures for dealing with the applications and the decisions reached.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1	To note the processes and procedures for dealing with applications for dispensations by County Councillors and Town and Community Councillors at Conwy, Denbighshire and Wrexham.
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REPORT DETAILS

1.00	
1.01	<p><u>Conwy, Denbighshire and Wrexham – procedures</u></p> <p>The processes for consideration of applications for dispensations are similar to that of Flintshire County Council’s Standards Committee. Applicants are invited to attend the meeting of the respective standards committees so that they can explain the reason for their application and members of the panel can ask any questions. They are then asked to leave the meeting whilst the panel debates and makes a decision, and whilst any necessary advice is given by their Monitoring Officer. They are then invited back into the meeting for the decision to be explained verbally and the decision is then followed in writing when, if a dispensation is granted, it will take effect.</p>
1.02	<p><u>Conwy</u></p> <p>Conwy have not received any applications for dispensations between 2019 and 2021. The last dispensation application was considered by their Standards Committee on the 23 July 2018. The matter related to a Councillor who was also a trustee of Gwrych Castle in Abergele and a dispensation was granted for the councillor to speak to and answer queries raised about matters such as funding and other matters related to the trust. The dispensation was granted for 12 months.</p>
1.03	<p><u>Denbighshire</u></p> <p>Denbighshire have not received any applications for dispensations between 2019 and 2021. The last dispensation application was considered by their Standards Committee on the 21 September 2018 and was an application by two community councillors to extend a previous dispensation granted in April 2018, relating to their role in a community hub organisation. The dispensation was due to expire on the 3rd October 2018. At the same meeting in September 2018 the standards committee approved a recommendation from their Monitoring Officer to circulate guidance and an application form to all Town and Community Council clerks and County Councillors so that they were made aware of the process for applying for dispensations.</p>
1.04	<p><u>Wrexham</u></p> <p>Wrexham have not received any applications for dispensations between 2019 and 2021. The last dispensation application was considered by their Standards Committee on the 7 December 2017. The matter related to members of Gresford Community Council and their role on in respect of a community centre and a dispensation was granted accordingly.</p>
2.00	RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS
2.01	N/A

3.00	CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED / CARRIED OUT
3.01	Draft report sent to Monitoring Officers of the Councils.

4.00	RISK MANAGEMENT
4.01	N/A

5.00	APPENDICES
5.01	N/A

6.00	LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS
6.01	Standards Committee reports and minutes for the Councils. Contact Officer: Matthew Georgiou, Deputy Monitoring Officer Telephone: 01352 702330 E-mail: matthew.georgiou@flintshire.gov.uk

7.00	GLOSSARY OF TERMS
7.01	N/A