

Shropshire Council
Legal and Democratic Services
Guildhall,
Frankwell Quay,
Shrewsbury
SY3 8HQ

Date: 9th September 2025
:

**Committee:
Standards Sub-Committee**

Date: Wednesday, 17 September 2025
Time: 2.30 pm
Venue: The Council Chamber, The Guildhall, Frankwell Quay, Shrewsbury,
SY3 8HQ

You are requested to attend the above meeting.
The Agenda is attached

Tim Collard
Assistant Director - Legal and Governance

Members of Standards Sub-Committee:

George Hollyhead
Dan Thomas
Beverley Waite

Your Committee Officer is:

Tim Ward

Tel: 01743 257713
Email: tim.ward@shropshire.gov.uk

AGENDA

1 Election of Chairman

To elect a Chairman for the duration of the meeting

2 Apologies for Absence

3 Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

Members are reminded that they must declare their disclosable pecuniary interests and other registrable or non-registrable interests in any matter being considered at the meeting as set out in Appendix B of the Members' Code of Conduct and consider if they should leave the room prior to the item being considered. Further advice can be sought from the Monitoring Officer in advance of the meeting.

4 Applications for dispensation (Pages 1 - 6)

Report of the Monitoring Officer is attached

Contact: Tim Collard Tel: 01743 252756

5 Exclusion of Press and Public

To resolve that, in accordance with the provisions of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 and Paragraph 10.4 (3) of the Council's Access to Information Rules, the public and press be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following items

6 Code of Conduct Complaint (Pages 7 - 18)

To consider an exempt report relating to a Code of Conduct complaint.

Exempt report of the Monitoring Officer is attached

Contact: Tim Collard Tel: 01743 252756



Committee and Date
Standards Sub
Committee

Item

17 September 2025

Public

APPLICATIONS FOR DISPENSATION

Responsible Officer:	Tim Collard		
email:	tim.collard@shropshire.gov.uk	Tel:	01743 252756
Cabinet Member (Portfolio Holder):	Heather Kidd		

1. Synopsis

To consider applications for dispensation received from Councillors Alex Wagner and Rob Wilson

2. Executive Summary

2.1. To consider whether dispensations should be granted to Councillors Alex Wagner and Rob Wilson who have "Other Registerable Interests" in matters relating to Shrewsbury Town Council.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1. That, in accordance with the adopted Shropshire Council Code of Conduct, the Sub-Committee grants a dispensation to Councillors Alex Wagner and Rob Wilson enabling them to participate in the discussion and voting on matters relating to the devolution of powers to Shrewsbury Town Council at meetings of Shropshire Council (including cabinet and any other formal decision making committees) on the grounds that it is "in the interests of persons living in the authority's area."
- 3.2. That the dispensation last until 03 May 2029 or until such time as the relevant Councillor no longer has a disclosable pecuniary interest in the matter, whichever is the sooner.

Report

4. Risk Assessment and Opportunities Appraisal

- 4.1. The Localism Act 2011 places a requirement on Local Authorities to promote and maintain high standards of conduct by members and co-opted members of the authority. Participation in the discussion and voting on a matter by a member with an other registerable interest risks damaging the reputation of the authority and could amount to a failure to comply with the code of conduct.

<i>Risk</i>	<i>Mitigation</i>
Reputational damage	Consider the issue of a dispensation

5. Financial Implications

- 5.1. There are no obvious financial implications in making this decision.

6. Climate Change Appraisal

- 6.1. There are no obvious climate change implications in making this decision.

7. Background

- 7.1. The Code of Conduct requires that a member with an “Other Registerable Interest” in any matter discussed at a meeting may be prevented from participating in the discussion of voting on the matter unless they have been granted a dispensation.
- 7.2. Section 33 of the Localism Act sets out the circumstances in which dispensations may be granted to members with disclosable pecuniary interests as follows:

“A relevant authority may grant a dispensation under this section only if, after having had regard to all relevant circumstances, the authority—

- (a) considers that without the dispensation the number of persons prohibited by section 31(4) from participating in any particular business would be so great a proportion of the body transacting the business as to impede the transaction of the business,*
- (b) considers that without the dispensation the representation of different political groups on the body transacting any particular business would be so upset as to alter the likely outcome of any vote relating to the business,*
- (c) considers that granting the dispensation is in the interests of persons living in the authority's area,*
- (d) if it is an authority to which Part 1A of the Local Government Act 2000 applies and is operating executive arrangements, considers that without the dispensation each member of the authority's executive would be prohibited by section 31(4) from participating in any particular business to be transacted by the authority's executive, or*
- (e) considers that it is otherwise appropriate to grant a dispensation.”*

The same criteria can be applied to applications for dispensations in respect of Other Registerable Interests.

- 7.3. Written requests for a dispensation have been received from Councillors Alex Wagner and Rob Wilson and these are attached to this report explaining why the dispensation is desirable. The Standards Committee has authority to decide if it is appropriate to grant the dispensation.
- 7.4. Any dispensation granted cannot cover participation in respect of the relevant business after four years from the date of dispensation.
- 7.5. The Committee needs to consider whether Councillors Alex Wagner and Rob Wilson should be granted a dispensation.
- 7.6. In reaching decisions on each applicant, the Committee needs to have in mind the circumstances and nature of the item of business to be considered and the public interest in having their views represented.
- 7.7. The devolution of services to Town and Parish Councils will only be considered where it appears to be in the interests of the persons living in the area and it would likely benefit those people for the decision to involve the Councillors with the greatest knowledge of the area.

8. Additional Information

- 8.1. None

9. Conclusions

- 9.1. Members are requested to consider if it is in the public interest to grant the requested dispensations.
- 9.2. The options available to the Sub Committee are as follows:
 - 9.2.1 To grant the dispensations to take part in discussions and/or voting on matters relating to the devolution of powers to Shrewsbury Town Council
 - 9.2.2 To not grant the dispensations.

List of Background Papers (This MUST be completed for all reports, but does not include items containing exempt or confidential information)

Code of Conduct

Localism Act 2011

Local Member: *None*

Appendices – Appendix 1 Attached

Subject: Shrewsbury Town Council

Dear Tim,

As a member of Shrewsbury Town Council I have an "Other Registerable Interest" in matters relating to the Town Council when they are discussed at meetings of Shropshire Council. As part of the commitment for the devolution of powers from Shropshire Council to the Town and Parish Councils, it will become necessary for the Council to consider arrangements for the discharge of certain functions by the Town Council. As an Executive Member of Shropshire Council involved in honouring that commitment, it is desirable that my knowledge can be shared when important decisions are taken.

In accordance with Paragraph 33(1) of the Localism Act 2011 I would be grateful if I could be granted a dispensation to participate and vote in all matters relating to the devolution of powers to Shrewsbury Town Council when they are considered at meetings of Shropshire Council, (including cabinet and any other formal decision making committees) on the grounds that, as a member also of the Town Council with detailed knowledge of its working practices and capabilities, my participation in such matters would be in the interests of persons living in the area covered by Shropshire Council.

Best,
Alex

Cllr Alex Wagner

Mayor of Shrewsbury
Deputy Leader of Shropshire Council
Shrewsbury Town and Shropshire Councillor for Quarry

Subject: Devolution of Powers to Shrewsbury Town Council

Dear Tim,

As a member, and Leader of, Shrewsbury Town Council I have an "Other Registerable Interest" in matters relating to the Town Council when they are discussed at meetings of Shropshire Council. As part of the commitment for the devolution of powers from Shropshire Council to the Town and Parish Councils, it will become necessary for the Council to consider arrangements for the discharge of certain functions by the Town Council. As an Executive Member of Shropshire Council involved in honouring that commitment, it is desirable that my knowledge can be shared when important decisions are taken.

In accordance with Paragraph 33(1) of the Localism Act 2011 I would be grateful if I could be granted a dispensation to participate and vote in all matters relating to the devolution of powers to Shrewsbury Town Council when they are considered at meetings of Shropshire Council, (including cabinet and any other formal decision making committees) on the grounds that, as a member also of the Town Council with detailed knowledge of its working practices and capabilities, my participation in such matters would be in the interests of persons living in the area covered by Shropshire Council.

Best wishes,

Rob

Cllr Rob Wilson
Cophorne

Liberal Democrat

Portfolio Holder for Transport and Economic Growth

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By virtue of paragraph(s) 1, 2, 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A
of the Local Government Act 1972.

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