



Committee and Date
Standards Sub
Committee

17 September 2025

Item

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
