



STANDARDS REPORT

Date Written	4 th October 2018
Report Author	Carys Kennedy
Exempt/Non Exempt	Non Exempt
Committee Date	19 th October 2018

To: Chair, Ladies and Gentlemen

Code of Conduct for Members and Co-opted Members: Request for Dispensation - Councillor Kevin O'Neill

1.0 SUMMARY OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To consider an application from Councillor Kevin O'Neill who seeks dispensation to speak and vote on matters relating to the Leisure Trust as he was appointed as Chair of the Leisure Trust until July 2016. This also applies to any pursuant "interest" that may be deemed to arise thereunto, relating to any business conducted by the Authority or any of its Committees which comes before the Council, Cabinet or any of its Committees.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION(S)

- 2.1 The Committee is requested, in light of the facts presented in the report contained within the application, to determine whether or not it is prepared to exercise its discretion under any of the sub sections of Regulation 2 of the Standards Committee (Grant of Dispensation) (Wales) Regulations 2001 to grant the Councillor seeking dispensation an entitlement to speak and vote at any meeting (where appropriate).

3.0 INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

- 3.1. Members will be aware that Councillor Kevin O'Neill's Dispensation Request was scheduled for the meeting on the 20th July 2018. Members were advised that the Governance Scrutiny Committee has been receiving updates on historical issues in

relation to the Merthyr Tydfil Leisure Trust and, as such, it was resolved that the dispensation request be deferred until such time as the Scrutiny Committee has completed this process. Correspondence has now been received confirming that the Scrutiny Committee will now only be receiving updates on the way forward for the Leisure Trust, and it is felt that members are now in a position to consider Councillor O’Neill’s dispensation request.

- 3.2 Attached, as Appendix 1, is the dispensation form received from Councillor Kevin O’Neill seeking dispensation to speak and vote on matters relating to the Leisure Trust and to any pursuant “interest” that may be deemed to arise thereunto. Members will recall that Councillor O’Neill submitted a request previously in respect of this issue but it was felt at that time that his resignation from the management structure was very recent and that he may become involved in considering issues arising from his own tenure if the dispensation were to be granted. He has made this further application because a further period of time has elapsed and the structure and management of the Trust has undergone wholesale change since his involvement with them.
- 3.3. Councillor O’Neill seeks dispensation in accordance with paragraph 2 (f) of the Standards Committee (Grant of Dispensation) (Wales) Regulations 2001 (hereinafter call “the Regulations”).

CARYS KENNEDY
MONITORING OFFICER

BACKGROUND PAPERS		
Title of Document(s)	Document(s) Date	Document Location
Request for dispensation form	25 th June 2018	Democratic Services
Dispensation Request to Standards Committee	20 th July 2018	Council Website
Does the report contain any issue that may impact the Council’s Constitution?		No