

Application to the Standards Committee by Councillor Debbie Taylor for a dispensation under s33 (2) (c) and (e) of the Localism Act 2011 to allow her to participate in a meeting of a licensing sub-committee, to hear an application to vary a premises licence at the Queen's Head, Bromsgrove Road, Redditch on Monday 22 October 2012 whilst having a disclosable pecuniary interest in the matter to be considered.

Section 31 (4) of the Localism Act 2011 provides that if a member is present at a meeting of the authority or of any committee of the authority and has a disclosable pecuniary interest in any matter to be considered at the meeting, the member may not participate in any discussion of the matter at the meeting or participate in any vote taken on the matter at the meeting and the Redditch Borough Council Code of Conduct requires such a member to leave the meeting.

Section 33 of the Localism Act 2011 provides that on written application to the Monitoring Officer, the relevant authority may grant a dispensation relieving the member from either or both of these restrictions (participation and/or vote).

On Monday 22 October 2012 a meeting of a Licensing Sub-Committee will hear an application for the variation of a premises licence under the Licensing Act 2003. The premises is located within the Central Ward of the Borough.

Councillor Debbie Taylor is a Ward Councillor for Central Ward and by virtue of her home being adjacent to the premises would be prohibited from participating in the meeting as having a disclosable pecuniary interest in the matter being considered.

The Licensing Act 2003 allows parties who have made representations relating to the Application to be heard, or to request that their Ward Councillor represent them at the hearing.

In order to exercise this role and participate in the meeting Councillor Debbie Taylor has applied to the Monitoring Officer for a dispensation from the Standards Committee to enable him to participate at the hearing to represent residents who have asked him to represent them.

Section 33 (2) provides that a dispensation may be granted only if, after having regard to all of the relevant circumstances, the authority considers that one of the grounds for dispensation applies.

The relevant grounds are contained in paragraphs:

(c) considers that granting the dispensation is in the interests of persons living in the authority's area

(e) considers that it is otherwise appropriate to grant a dispensation.

The Committee is asked to decide whether to grant a dispensation under one of these provisions in all the circumstances of this matter as set out above.