

## **DISPENSATIONS SUB (STANDARDS) COMMITTEE**

**Wednesday, 10 February 2016**

**Minutes of the meeting of the Dispensations Sub (Standards) Committee held at the Guildhall EC2 at 10.00 am**

### **Present**

#### **Members:**

Nigel Challis  
Dan Large

Edward Lord  
Virginia Rounding

#### **Officers:**

Michael Cogher	-	Comptroller and City Solicitor
Gemma Stokley	-	Town Clerk's Department
Edward Wood	-	Comptroller and City Solicitor's Department

#### **1. APOLOGIES**

There were no apologies for absence.

#### **2. MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS UNDER THE CODE OF CONDUCT IN RESPECT OF ITEMS ON THE AGENDA**

There were no declarations.

#### **3. ELECTION OF A CHAIRMAN**

In accordance with Standing Order No. 29, the Sub Committee elected a Chairman.

**RESOLVED** - That Edward Lord be elected as Chairman for the meeting of the Dispensations Sub Committee.

#### **4. REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS**

The Sub Committee considered a total of ten written requests for dispensations from the following Members:

- Alderman Timothy Hailes (Alderman for the Ward of Bassishaw);
- Michael Hudson (Common Councilman for the Ward of Castle Baynard)
- Alderman Professor Michael Mainelli (Alderman for the Ward of Broad Street);
- Deputy Robert Merrett (Common Councilman for the Ward of Bassishaw);
- Dhruv Patel (Common Councilman for the Ward of Aldgate);
- James de Sausmarez (Common Councilman for the Ward of Candlewick)
- Ian Seaton (Common Councilman for the Ward of Cornhill);

- Sir Michael Snyder (Common Councilman for the Ward of Cordwainer);
- James Tumbridge (Common Councilman for the Ward of Tower)
- Mark Wheatley (Common Councilman for the Ward of Dowgate);

It was noted that the requests for dispensation under Section 33 (2) of the Localism Act 2011, to participate in any discussion and vote on matters relating to the Business Rate Premium were based on the following grounds:-

(i) Without the dispensation the proportion of Members and Co-opted Members prohibited from participating in any particular business would be so great as to impede the transaction of the business; and/or

(ii) Granting the dispensation is in the interests of persons living in the City.

It was noted that Members had submitted the requests with a particular view to speaking at meetings of the Finance Committee taking place on 16 February 2016 and/or the Court of Common Council 3 March 2016. However, the majority were seeking a more general dispensation to cover the period up to the next Ward elections in 2017, to cover both speaking and voting at relevant meetings.

Following confirmation from the Comptroller & City Solicitor regarding the grounds on which a dispensation could be granted, the Sub Committee considered each of the requests in turn. The Sub Committee considered it beneficial to have as many voices/votes as possible on this matter and noted that, given the nature of the City and its electors these issues were bound to arise.

**RESOLVED:** That:

1) The requests of the following Members for a dispensation under Section 33 (2) of the Localism Act 2011 in relation to their disclosable pecuniary interest be approved:

- Alderman Timothy Hailes (Alderman for the Ward of Bassishaw);
- Michael Hudson (Common Councilman for the Ward of Castle Baynard)
- Alderman Professor Michael Mainelli (Alderman for the Ward of Broad Street);
- Deputy Robert Merrett (Common Councilman for the Ward of Bassishaw);
- Dhruv Patel (Common Councilman for the Ward of Aldgate);
- James de Sausmarez (Common Councilman for the Ward of Candlewick)
- Ian Seaton (Common Councilman for the Ward of Cornhill);
- Sir Michael Snyder (Common Councilman for the Ward of Cordwainer);
- James Tumbridge (Common Councilman for the Ward of Tower)
- Mark Wheatley (Common Councilman for the Ward of Dowgate);

- 2) The dispensations be granted until the Ward Elections of 2017 for permission to speak at and/or vote at relevant meetings concerning the Business Rate Premium.

5. **QUESTIONS**

**Further requests for Dispensations regarding the Business Rate Premium**

In response to a question, the Chairman suggested that any further written requests for dispensations from Members in relation to forthcoming discussions on the Business Rate Premium ahead of either the Finance Committee on 16 February 2016 or the Court of Common Council on 3 March 2016 be considered by the Town Clerk in consultation with the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the grand Committee.

6. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

There were no additional, urgent items of business for consideration.

**The meeting closed at 10.20 am**

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Chairman

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