

Note from Chair

Bearing in mind the legal parameters detailed in the Comptroller's report, the following options, in relation to dispensations to speak and procedures, might be considered. These are rooted variously in the Comptroller's discussion paper for the meeting held 6/9/19, and in points raised at that meeting. There might well be other options members wish to consider.

Dispensations to Speak

Members might wish to consider extending 'Dispensations available from the Town Clerk' to include 'speaking as a member of the public on planning and licensing applications' either 'to speak on any licensing and planning applications affecting ward constituents' or 'to speak on any matters affecting ward constituents' or 'to speak on any matters.'

Procedure

Members might wish to consider

- requiring members to take advice, as to the engagement of DPI, from the Monitoring Officer or relevant committee lawyer, prior to submitting an application
- altering the assessment criteria so complaints in relation to speaking and voting will not be investigated, provided that the member has obtained advice in good faith and with full disclosure from the Monitoring Officer or committee lawyer, that a DPI is not engaged.
- setting deadlines for receipt of applications
- providing guidance on what constitutes an urgent application
- removing the requirement that a member may not consider an application for a dispensation for a committee on which they themselves sit
- having pre meetings of committees to decide applications for dispensations to vote
- fixing meetings of dispensations panels at regular intervals for the following year, whilst retaining means of dealing with urgent applications

Forms

- Making use of forms mandatory
- shortening and simplifying form (see appendix 1 OF Comptroller and City Solicitor's report)
- having a minimum period between the submission of identical applications