

City of London Corporation Committee Report

Committee(s): Dispensations Sub-Panel of the Panel of Independent Persons	Dated: 11 th November 2024
Subject: Request for a Dispensation under the Corporation's approved Dispensations Policy	Public report: For Decision
This proposal: This application must be considered in accordance with policy and guidance on the granting of dispensations under the Members' Code of Conduct.	
Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?	No
If so, how much?	N/A
What is the source of Funding?	N/A
Has this Funding Source been agreed with the Chamberlain's Department?	N/A
Report of:	Town Clerk
Report author:	Kate Doidge, Governance Officer

Summary

This report sets out details of a Member who has requested a dispensation as detailed below and in the dispensation application form received.

Recommendation(s)

The Sub-Panel is asked to consider the application for a dispensation submitted as summarised below and appended and make recommendations thereon to the Town Clerk.

Main Report

Background

1. A Member has submitted an application for a dispensation. The application is submitted in accordance with the current dispensations policy. The statutory grounds for granting a dispensation under the Localism Act 2011, and the factors that your Sub-Panel should take into account when considering these applications, are set out and explained in this policy.

Current Position

2. The full application for dispensation is appended to this report as Appendix 1 and this covering report provides a summary of the dispensation sought.

Proposals

3. **Robert Howard** is an Alderman representing the Ward of Cornhill. He has requested a dispensation for the duration of his term as Chair and governor of City of London School for Girls (CLSG) to speak (but not vote) on City Junior School (CJS) matters that appear on the CLSG agenda. The maximum term of office for Chairs of the Board of Governors of the City Schools is six years.
4. For clarification, as per paragraph 7 of the dispensations policy, a dispensation must specify the period for which it has effect, which may not exceed four years.
5. Alderman Howard makes this request as his daughter is now a pupil at the City Junior School. The Board of Governors of the City Junior School is constituted as a joint Sub-Committee of the Board of Governors of the City of London School and the City of London School for Girls. As the Board of Governors for the City of London School for Girls is the parent Committee of the aforementioned joint Sub-Committee, Alderman Howard makes this request as City Junior School items will appear on the agenda of the Board of Governors for the City of London School for Girls.
6. Alderman Howard is currently the Chair of the Board of Governors of the City of London School for Girls, with his term commencing in June 2023. He holds ex-officio positions on the Board of Governors for the City Junior School, City of London Freedmen's School, and City of London School. He is also a member of the Court of Aldermen and the Education Board, amongst others. His application is attached in full at Appendix 1.
7. At its meeting on 4th July 2019, the Policy and Resources Committee considered a report concerning the management of the City Corporation's three independent schools at that time and the extent to which Members who were the parents of current pupils could and should be able to serve as Governors. One suggested option was to clarify that a Member in that situation was not eligible to serve. Another option was to explore how more general parental representation on the various Boards of Governors could best be achieved. In the event it was resolved that the parents or guardians of any child currently studying at the City of London School, the City of London School for Girls or the City of London Freeman's School should continue to be eligible to sit on the Board of Governors for that School, subject to the provisions of the Code of Conduct.
8. The report may be found at this link: [Agenda item - The City of London Corporation's Independent Schools and Parent Governors - Modern Council](#)
9. The application falls outside the parameters under which the Town Clerk is able to solely determine dispensations and must therefore be considered by this Sub-Panel in accordance with the existing policy on the granting of dispensations, with recommendations thereon made to the Town Clerk.

Corporate & Strategic Implications –

Strategic implications – None in the context of this report.

Financial implications – None in the context of this report.

Resource implications – None in the context of this report.

Legal implications – Set out in the policy and guidance on the granting of dispensations.

Risk implications – None in the context of this report.

Equalities implications – None in the context of this report.

Climate implications - None in the context of this report.

Security implications – None in the context of this report.

Conclusion

10. The Sub-Panel are asked to consider the application for a dispensation summarised above and appended and make recommendations thereon to the Town Clerk.

Appendices

- Appendix 1 – Application – Alderman Robert Howard

Background Papers

Policy & Resources Committee, 4th July 2019 - [Agenda item - The City of London Corporation's Independent Schools and Parent Governors - Modern Council](#)

Kate Doidge

Governance Officer

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