

Committee:	Standards Committee
Date:	5 October 2015
Title:	Applications for dispensations
Author:	Monitoring Officer
Action:	To decide upon the application

Background

1. I have received two applications for dispensations from members of Bethesda Community Council. Copies of the application forms submitted by Cllrs. Godfrey Northam and Walter Watkin Williams are appended to this report.

2. Both councillors have applied in relation to the same matter – discussions as to the possible transfer of community centres from the ownership of Gwynedd Council to the community council. Their interests under the code arise from their membership of the managing committees of these centres.

3. The Standards Committee may grant a dispensation if the situation comes within one (or more) of those listed in the relevant regulations. These situations are listed in the appended guidance notes. The Committee must first of all therefore decide whether any of the situations listed arise in these cases.

4. If it decides that any of the paragraphs are applicable, the Committee must then decide whether the members should be allowed to take part even though the Code of Conduct provides that they should not. In doing so it must take into account the public interest. The Ombudsman's Guidelines on the code of Conduct notes the following in relation to granting dispensations

“The standards committee will need to balance the public interest in preventing members with prejudicial interests from taking part in decisions, against the public interest in decisions being taken by a reasonably representative group of members of the authority.”

Recommendation

4. The Committee is requested to consider and decide upon the following:

- (a) Application by Councillor Godfrey Northam
- (b) Application by Councillor Walter Watkin Williams