

Committee:	Standards Committee
Date:	17 June 2019
Title:	Application for dispensation
Author:	Monitoring Officer
Action:	To decide upon the applications

Background

1. An applications for a dispensation has been submitted by Councillor Gareth Roberts, who represents the Aberdaron ward on Gwynedd Council. His application form is attached to this report. The application relates to a possible electricity generating scheme near to Ynys Enlli, which is within his ward and where he farms as a tenant.

Considerations

2. 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 the any of the situations listed arise in these cases.

3. If it decides that any of 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 Code of Conduct provides that members with a prejudicial interest in a matter should not take any part in a decision on that. The Code's provisions are intended to give members of the public confidence that decisions are being taken in their best interests, and not in the best interests of members of authorities or their close personal associates.

4. 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

5. The Committee is requested to consider and decide upon the application.