

HARTLEPOOL BOROUGH COUNCIL

DISPENSATION – SECTION 33 OF THE LOCALISM ACT, 2011

In accordance with delegation from the Audit and Governance Committee, on 19th October 2020, the Monitoring Officer of Hartlepool Borough Council granted a dispensation to all Members of the Council regarding their disclosable pecuniary interests in order to allow them to fully participate in the discussion and voting in relation to the setting of Council Tax at all relevant meetings of the Authority for the financial years 2020/21.

Having regard to all the relevant circumstances, it was considered justifiable to grant a dispensation to all Members under any one or more of the following circumstances provided for in Section 33 of the Localism Act, 2011 given the number of Members likely to be prohibited from being involved in the decision making process and the importance of the decision to be made;

- (i) That without the dispensation the number of persons prohibited by Section 31(4) from participating in any particular business would be so great a proportion of the body transacting the business as to “impede transaction of the business”.
- (ii) Without the dispensation, the representation of different political groups on the body transacting the business would be so upset as to alter the outcome of any vote relating to the business;
- (iii) That granting the dispensation is in the interests of persons living in the Authority’s area.
- (iv) It is considered that it is otherwise appropriate to grant a dispensation.

The setting of the Council’s budget is a statutory requirement and quorate meetings of the Council are therefore required in order to transact such business. In the absence of a dispensation, Members with any disclosable pecuniary interests could be in breach of the Localism Act, 2011, the Council’s Code of Conduct and its applicable Procedure Rules.

Date: 19/10/2020

Signed:



Chief Solicitor & Monitoring Officer.