

To the Monitoring Officer
NEDDC

Dear Mrs Sternberg,

Request for a dispensation

Further to our discussion just before Christmas, I write to request the granting of a dispensation pursuant to paragraph 37 of the Council's Code of Conduct so that I can take part in and vote on an issue of major importance to the council and upon which I have declared a disclosable pecuniary interest and other interest that would otherwise prevent me from taking part and voting on the matter.

This request relates to a decision scheduled to be taken by the Full Council meeting listed for Monday 27th January 2025 regarding the Medium Term Financial Plan, namely the vote that will take place over any proposal to increase rents for council properties.

As you are aware, I am one of 4 Members appointed by the Council to serve on the Board of Rykneld Homes and will be required to declare a non-pecuniary interest in this issue and leave the room before debate and voting takes place. However, three of those members are from the majority group with the fourth coming from the principle opposition group. The current political balance of the council is 27 members in the majority group and 26 members of combined opposition groups. Were the 4 board members to be excluded from participating and voting on this agenda item the majority group would cease to have a majority at this meeting and that may alter the likely outcome of any vote.

Section 37 of the Code of Conduct provides that a dispensation may be granted in a number of circumstances including:

That, without the dispensation, the representation of different political groups on the body transacting the business would be so upset as to alter the likely outcome of any vote on the matter.

The circumstances I described fall squarely within this provision and allow for the granting of the dispensation, hence this request. I believe that I must make this request in writing to you and that you have delegated power to grant such a request or the option of referring it to the Standards Committee for consideration.

Yours sincerely



Councillor Kevin Gillot

10 January 2025