Report of the Director of Policy & Resources

Agenda Item No: 7 Meeting:

NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL

STANDARDS COMMITTEE

Request for Dispensation

1. OBJECT AND KEY POINTS IN THIS REPORT

1.1 To consider granting a dispensation to Cllr Jonathan Evison, Lead Member for Steel and Heavy Industry pursuant to section 33 (2) (c) of the Localism Act 2011 ('Act').

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 At the Annual meeting of the Council on 10 May 2016, Cllr Jonathan Evison was appointed Lead Member for Heavy Industry and Steel.
- 2.2 The Cllr Evison is currently employed by British Steel and has requested that the Committee give consideration to granting a dispensation to enable him to perform his Lead Member role and thereby avoid any conflicts of interest arising. Although the Lead Member role does not confer any executive decision making powers, it maybe that Cllr Evison will be required to report and speak at council meetings on his role and as such should be able to do so unhindered by the declaration requirements that would follow from his employment at British Steel.
- 2.3 The Committee will recall that at its special meeting on 6 November 2015 (minute 116 refers as attached) it granted all members of the Council a dispensation to participate in the meeting of full Council on 10 November 2015 concerning the motion on TATA steel. This was in recognition of the large number of members who were either current or past employees of, the then, TATA Steel, including Cllr Evison.
- 2.4 The dispensation granted by the Committee was pursuant to section 33 (2) (c) of the Act, namely that it "is in the interests of persons living in the authority's area" for a dispensation to be granted and was for a

limited period of twelve months and covered any related motions or items that come before the council.

3. **OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION**

- 3.1 To grant the dispensation as requested by Cllr Evison.
- 3.2 Not to grant the dispensation as requested by Cllr Evison.

4. ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS

- 4.1 To grant the dispensation would remove any ambiguity over the position and ensure that Cllr Evison could discharge his Lead Member role unhindered by the declaration requirements that arise from him being an employee of British Steel.
- 4.2 Not to grant the dispensation and may impede the ability of Cllr Evison to discharge his responsibilities as Lead Member for Heavy Industry and Steel.

5. **RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCIAL, STAFFING, PROPERTY, IT)**

5.1 There are no resource implications arising from this report.

6. OUTCOMES OF INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT (IF APPLICABLE)

6.1 Not applicable.

7. OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION AND CONFLICTS OF INTERESTS DECLARED

- 7.1 There are no conflict of interest considerations.
- 7.2 Mr Goolden, Independent Person has been consulted on the contents of this report and supports the recommendation being made.

8. **RECOMMENDATIONS**

8.1 That pursuant to section 33 (2) (c) of the Act Cllr Jonathan Evison be granted a dispensation relieving him of the requirements of section 31 (4) of the Act whilst he fulfils the role of Lead Member for Heavy Industry and Steel.

DIRECTOR OF POLICY AND RESOURCES

Civic Centre Ashby Road SCUNTHORPE North Lincolnshire DN16 1AB Author: Will Bell Date: 29 June 2016

Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:Nil......

NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL

STANDARDS COMMITTEE (SPECIAL MEETING)

6 November 2015

PRESENT: - Councillor Poole (in the Chair).

Councillors Clark, Collinson, T Foster, O'Sullivan and Wells.

Independent Person: Mr R Johnson.

The committee met at the Civic Centre, Scunthorpe

- 115 DECLARATIONS OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY, PERSONAL OR PERSONAL AND PREJUDICIAL INTERESTS – There were no declarations of interest made at the meeting.
- 116 **CONSIDERATION OF GRANT OF DISPENSATION** The Monitoring Officer referred to minute 114 and reported orally that he had received a written request from both the Conservative and Labour Group secretaries to request that a dispensation be granted to enable Councillors Evison and Gosling respectively, to take part in a debate at full council on 10 November 2015 regarding a motion on TATA Steel, as well as any other member of their groups that may have an interest, be that personal and/or prejudicial under the Council's Code of Conduct.

The committee considered that all members of the council, particularly those that maybe employed at TATA Steel, Scunthorpe should be free to participate and bring to the debate their knowledge and experience so as to ensure the fullest debate in the interests of the residents of North Lincolnshire.

Accordingly, the committee, exceptionally, considered it appropriate that a dispensation be granted to all members of the council to participate in the debate and vote on this motion pursuant to section 33 (c) of the Localism Act 2011 and any related motions or items that come before the council for consideration. This dispensation to apply for a period of twelve months unless rescinded earlier by the committee.

Resolved – That the requests for dispensation, as detailed above, be granted.