

## **DARLINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL**

### **DISPENSATION – SECTION 33 OF THE LOCALISM ACT, 2011**

On 11<sup>th</sup> February 2020, the Managing Director and the Monitoring Officer, considering the number of Councillors who have interests in particular aspects of the local plan, that potentially could have consequential implications for themselves, their work places, or spouses, partners or civil partners or family members, agreed to grant a general dispensation, in respect of any disclosable pecuniary interests occasioned thereby, to allow full participation in regard to consideration and decision making about the Local Plan, at the Cabinet meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> February 2020, the Council meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> February 2020, and subsequent meetings.

Having regard to all relevant circumstances the dispensation was granted under grounds (a), (b), (c), and (e) of Section 33(2) of the Localism Act, 2011;

- (a) 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;
- (b) that without the dispensation, the representation of different political group on the body transacting the business would be so upset as to alter the likely outcome of any vote relating to the business;
- (c) that granting the dispensation is in the interests of persons living in the Authority's area;
- (d) (in the case of an authority operating executive arrangements) that it is considered that without the dispensation each member of the authority's executive would be prohibited by section 31(4) from participating in any particular business to be transacted by the authority's executive; or
- (e) that it is otherwise appropriate to grant a dispensation.

All members will be impacted to a greater or lesser extent by the draft local plan, and their participation in decision making will be important.

The Local Plan a matter of public interest, and something about which all members need to express a view and make decisions.

Allowing members to participate, in these circumstances, is not likely to damage public confidence in the conduct of the Councils business.

In all these circumstances, the Managing Director and the Monitoring Officer agree that the grant of a dispensation in the terms set out above to members is appropriate.

Date: 12<sup>th</sup> February 2020

Signed:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Paul Wildsmith', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Paul Wildsmith  
Managing Director

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Luke Swinhoe', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Luke Swinhoe  
Monitoring Officer