

Full Council

Date:	14 May 2019
Title:	Dispensations
Contact Officer:	Graham Hunt, Town Clerk

Purpose of Report

1. To provide background on the review and re-adoption of the Dispensation Policy and the related General Dispensations.

Background

2. Beyond the last change in the law governing Codes of Conduct (and related declarations of interest / agreeing of dispensations), Thame Town Council adopted a policy on the granting of dispensations.
3. There are occasions when dispensations may be required to enable the Council to discuss business which would otherwise be precluded through Members having particular interests.
4. The policy document also includes a list of agreed "General Dispensations" that the Town Council has granted.
5. The policy / list has stood in good stead ever since, being that which most reflects the needs of the Town Council.
6. It is good practice to check that such critical documents are still valid at the start of a new administration.
7. It is a legal restriction that any granted dispensations expire on a new administration and therefore where still relevant, now need to be renewed.
8. The following changes are proposed:
 - a) Some cosmetic changes to formatting throughout.
 - b) Some minor cosmetic changes around the fact that is not just pecuniary interests for which dispensations may be required.
 - c) Removal of the general dispensation relating to setting the precept, as latest Government Guidance states it is not required.
 - d) Addition of the Thame Community Land Trust as a general dispensation.
9. Members are welcome to make suggestions for change / further change.

Resource Appraisal

10. There are no resource implications attached to this report.

Risk Assessment

11. There are no risks arising from this report.

Legal Powers: Localism Act 2011

Recommendation

It is recommended that:

- i) The updated Dispensations document be adopted.***