

**NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL**

**STANDARDS COMMITTEE**

**Renewal of Dispensation**

**1. OBJECT AND KEY POINTS IN THIS REPORT**

- 1.1 To consider renewing the dispensation granted to all members by the committee on 6 November 2015 concerning motions relating to TATA Steel, now British Steel.

**2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

- 2.1 At its meeting on 6 November 2015, the committee granted a dispensation to enable all members of the council to participate in a motion concerning TATA Steel, now British Steel, at the meeting of full council on 10 November 2015.

- 2.2 The terms of the dispensation granted by the committee were as follows:

“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 (2) (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 This dispensation to apply for a period of twelve months unless rescinded earlier by the committee.”

Minute 116 of the committee refers.

- 2.3 The motion followed a recent announcement by, the then, TATA Steel over its future plans for the Scunthorpe site which had engendered a huge amount of local and national interest.

- 2.4 The committee recognised that many members of the council were either past or present employees of the steel industry or had family

members and friends who were and as such the motion may give rise to declaration requirements under the council's Code of Conduct. Notwithstanding, the committee, exceptionally, considered that all members should be free to participate in the debate and contribute their knowledge and experience of the steel industry so as to ensure the fullest debate in the interests of the residents of North Lincolnshire.

- 2.5 The dispensation has now expired and the purpose of this report is for the committee to consider whether it should be renewed, in light of the continuing interest in the Scunthorpe site, now known as British Steel, and the likelihood that the council will continue to receive reports and debate items on its progress.

### **3. OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION**

- 3.1 To renew the dispensation granted by the committee on 6 November 2015.
- 3.2 Not to renew the dispensation granted by the committee on 6 November 2015.

### **4. ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS**

- 4.1 To renew the dispensation would remove any ambiguity over the position and ensure that members that may have interests remain unhindered by the declaration requirements from fully participating in any debates concerning British Steel.
- 4.2 Not to renew the dispensation may impede the ability of the council to fully debate matters concerning British Steel, contrary to the interests of the residents of North Lincolnshire.

### **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 As of the date of this report no conflict of interests have been identified.
- 7.2 Both Independent Persons have been consulted on the contents of this report and support the recommendation being made.
- 7.3 The secretary's to both political groups have been consulted over the purpose of this report.

## 8. **RECOMMENDATION**

- 8.1 That pursuant to section 33 (2) (c) of the Localism Act 2011 the dispensation granted by the Committee on 6 November 2015 be renewed for a further 12 months.

DIRECTOR OF POLICY AND RESOURCES

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**Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:** Minute 116 of the Standards Committee of 6 November 2015.