



Report To: Council

25 May 2017

Lead Officer: Head of People and Organisational Development

Extension to Six Month Rule

Purpose

1. To consider an extension of the six month rule for Councillor Mick Martin, having regard to the circumstances of his absence from meetings.

Recommendation

2. That Council approves an extension of the six month rule for Councillor Mick Martin on ill-health grounds until 27 January 2018 and expresses its best wishes to him for a speedy recovery.

Background

3. Section 85 (1) of the Local Government Act 1972 states that "if a member of a Local Authority fails, throughout a period of six consecutive months from the date of their last attendance, to attend any meeting of the Authority they will, unless the failure was due to some good reason approved by the Authority before the expiry of that period, cease to be a member of the Authority." Attendance can be at any committee or subcommittee, or any joint committee, joint board or other body where the functions of the Authority are discharged or who were appointed to advise the Authority on any matter relating to the discharge of their functions.
4. Unfortunately, Councillor Martin has been unable to attend meetings recently on ill-health grounds. The last meeting he attended was the Council meeting on 27th January 2017, which means his six months will expire on 27th July 2017. Councillor Martin has confirmed that he will not be able to attend the next Council meeting scheduled for Thursday 25th May 2017 and a formal request has therefore been made for an extension to the six month rule to be approved in his respect.
5. Under the circumstances, it is requested that Council approve an extension of the six month rule for Councillor Martin. It is suggested that this be for a period of six months until 27th January 2018 and that Council's best wishes be conveyed to Councillor Martin for a speedy recovery. This decision would not prevent Councillor Martin from returning to meetings at any time before then if his health allowed, but would give maximum flexibility.

Considerations

6. Once any councillor loses office, through failure to attend for the six month period, the disqualification cannot be overcome by the councillor subsequently resuming attendance nor can retrospective approval of the Council be sought for an extension in time.
7. There are no direct financial implications arising from this request

Background Papers

The following background papers were used in the preparation of this report:

Local Government Act 1972

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