



Report to:	Council	13 July 2023
Lead Cabinet Member:	Cllr Bridget Smith	
Lead Officer:	Chief Executive	

Extension to Six Month Attendance Rule and appointment of Chair and Vice Chair of Employment & Staffing Committee

Executive Summary

1. To consider waiving and extending the attendance requirements of Section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972 for Cllr Will Jackson-Wood for a further six months from the date of this meeting, and to consider the appointment of a new Chair and Vice-Chair of Employment & Staffing Committee.

Key Decision

2. No

Recommendations

3. It is recommended that Council agrees:
 - a. to waive the attendance requirements of Section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972 for Cllr Will Jackson-Wood, and to extend the six-month attendance rule for a period of a further six months from the date of this meeting.
 - b. to the appointment of Cllr Sally Ann Hart as Chair of Employment & Staffing Committee and Cllr Anna Bradnam as Vice-Chair of Employment & Staffing Committee to take place with immediate effect.

Details

4. 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.”

5. This requirement can be waived and extended by Council. The granting of an extension is a decision that can only be made by full Council, and for a good reason.
6. Cllr Jackson-Wood last attended a qualifying meeting on 23 February 2023 so is currently within the six-month period.
7. Unfortunately, Cllr Jackson-Wood has recently experienced serious ill health and is unlikely to be able to meet the requirements of the six-month rule. A request has therefore been made to waive the six-month attendance requirement, and to apply a further six-month extension to the rule. If agreed, the extension will run until 13 January 2024.
8. An extension to the rule would not prohibit Cllr Jackson-Wood from attending meetings should his health allow.
9. Cllr Jackson-Wood is currently the Chair of Employment & Staffing Committee.
10. Therefore this report also asks Council to approve the appointment of the current Vice-Chair, Cllr Sally Ann Hart, as the new Chair of Employment & Staffing Committee and the appointment of Cllr Anna Bradnam as the new Vice-Chair of Employment & Staffing Committee to take place with immediate effect.

Options

11. Council could decide not to agree a waiver and extension or could grant an extension for a different period of time.
12. Council could seek to nominate and appoint different Councillors to act as Chair and Vice-Chair of Employment & Staffing Committee.

Background Papers

None

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