



**REPORT OF: DIRECTOR OF LEGAL SERVICES**  
**TO: COUNCIL FORUM**  
**ON: 4<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2010**

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**SUBJECT: ATTENDANCE OF THE MAYOR**

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**1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

To request that the Council approve the continued non attendance of the Mayor at Council meetings as she continues to recover from her recent illness.

**2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 1) That in accordance with the provisions of Section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972, the Council approve the reason for the Mayor's non attendance, and that the Mayor be granted an extension to her non attendance (due to illness) until 28<sup>th</sup> February 2011 if required.
- 2) The Council's best wishes be sent to the Mayor.

**3. BACKGROUND**

As Members will be aware, the Mayor, Councillor Sheila Williams, has been ill for some time, and is currently recuperating and taking time away from her Council duties.

Under Section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972, 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 shall, unless the reason was due to some reason approved by the authority before the expiry of that period, cease to be a Member of the authority.

The last meeting the Mayor attended was the Council Forum meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> June 2010, therefore the expiry of the period in this case would be 24<sup>th</sup> December 2010.

**4. RATIONALE**

The Council is asked to approve the reason for the Mayor's non attendance (that she has been very ill since July 2010) and is also requested to grant an extension until the end of February 2011, by which time it is hoped that the Mayor will have returned to her duties.

The Council has granted such requests in the past, most recently in the case of the late Councillor Frank Gorton, who was granted a three month extension to his non attendance at the Council Forum meeting in November 2006.

#### **5. POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

None

#### **6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

None

#### **7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

Under Section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972, 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 shall, unless the reason was due to some reason approved by the authority before the expiry of that period, cease to be a Member of the authority.

#### **8. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

None

**Linda Comstive, Director of Legal Services**

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Date: 25<sup>th</sup> October 2010

Background Papers: Local Government Act 1972