



**REPORT OF:** DIRECTOR OF HR & LEGAL SERVICES  
**TO:** COUNCIL FORUM  
**ON:** 27<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2011

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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 19th May 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 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, and at the November meeting of the Council Forum Members granted an extension to the Mayors non attendance (due to illness) until 28<sup>th</sup> February 2011 if required.

**4. RATIONALE**

At the present time the Mayor has been unable to return to her duties, and as this is the last Council Forum Meeting before the expiration on 28<sup>th</sup> February of the Council's approval, Council is asked to re-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 Annual Council on 19<sup>th</sup> May 2011, by which time it is hoped that the Mayor will have returned to her duties.

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

None

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

None

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

Under Section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972, if a Member of 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

**David Fairclough, Director of HR and Legal Services**

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Date: 17<sup>th</sup> January 2011

Background Papers: Local Government Act 1972