

Council

Date of Meeting:	18 May 2022
Report Title:	Approval of absence from Council meetings
Report of:	David Brown, Director of Governance and Compliance
Ward(s) Affected:	Leighton

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To seek approval from Council to extend the “six-month rule” with regard to a Councillor’s attendance at meetings.

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 The report seeks the approval of Council in respect of Councillor Byron Evans’ potential absence from Council meetings, for a period over six months, due to reasons of ill-health.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1 Council is asked to approve Councillor Byron Evans’ absence from Council meetings for a period of over six months, due to reasons of ill-health; such approval to apply until the date of the next local elections on 4 May 2023.

4. Reasons for Recommendations

- 4.1 Due to reasons of ill health, Councillor Byron Evans’ attendance at Council meetings cannot be guaranteed. Legislation states that, if a Council Member fails to attend Council meetings throughout a period of six consecutive months, he or she shall cease to be a member of the authority in question, unless such failure was due to some reason approved by the authority before the expiry of the six-month period.
- 4.2 This report asks Council to formally approve Councillor Evans’ absence from all Council meetings due to reasons of ill health, and to agree that such approval will continue to have effect until the day of the local Council elections on 4 May 2023. This will ensure that Councillor Evans’ membership of the Council will continue.

5 Background

- 5.1 The authority of Council is required in order to ensure that an individual's membership of the authority doesn't inadvertently cease, in circumstances where they find themselves unable to attend a meeting for the period in question due to a reason beyond the individual's control.

6 Implications

6.1 Legal

- 6.1.1 Section 85 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 his last attendance, to attend any meeting of the authority, he shall, unless the failure was due to some reason approved by the authority before the expiry of that period, cease to be a member of the authority. If necessary, the authority may grant further approvals if the reason for non-attendance continues beyond the initially approved period.

6.2 Finance

- 6.2.1 No implications have been identified.

6.3 Policy

- 6.3.1 No implications have been identified.

6.4 Equality

- 6.4.1 No implications have been identified.

6.5 Human Resources

- 6.5.1 No implications have been identified.

6.6 Risk Management

- 6.6.1 No implications have been identified.

6.7 Rural Communities

- 6.7.1 No implications have been identified.

6.8 Children and Young People/Cared for Children

- 6.8.1 No implications have been identified.

6.9 Public Health

- 6.9.1 No implications have been identified.

6.10 Climate Change

- 6.10.1 No implications have been identified.

Access to Information	
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Appendices:	None
Background Papers:	None