
REPORT TO:	Council
DATE:	6 October 2021
SERVICE AREA:	Legal and Governance
REPORTING OFFICER:	Head of Legal and Governance <i>(Elizabeth Jackson – Democratic Services Manager)</i>
SUBJECT:	WAIVER OF 6 MONTH COUNCILLOR ATTENDANCE RULE (SECTION 85 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972
WARD/S AFFECTED:	MARSTON MOOR WARD
FORWARD PLAN REF:	N/A

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 Section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972 states that if a Member of a local authority fails to attend any meeting of the authority for a period of six months they shall cease to be a Member of that authority. This requirement can be waived and the time limit extended if any failure to attend was due to a reason approved by the authority, in advance of the six month period expiring.
- 1.2 Councillor Norman Waller, the Member for Marston Moor ward, has been unable to attend meetings recently due to ill health and the purpose of this report is to propose that the Council approve an extension to the six month rule.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 To agree that, in accordance with Section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972, Councillor Norman Waller's non-attendance at meetings of the authority be approved for a period of 6 months on compassionate grounds.

3.0 THE REPORT

- 3.1 Councillor Norman Waller has been unable to attend meetings recently due to ill health. The last meeting Councillor Waller attended was Council on 21 April 2021. Under the circumstances it is requested the Council approve his continuing absence for a further period of six months.

3.2 The extension is allowed under Section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972 and is necessary to prevent Councillor Waller losing his seat whilst he is unwell.

4.0 REQUIRED ASSESSMENTS AND IMPLICATIONS

4.1 The following were considered: Financial Implications; Human Resources Implications; Legal Implications; ICT Implications; Strategic Property/Asset Management Considerations; Risk Assessment; Equality and Diversity (the Public Sector Equality Duty and impact upon people with protected characteristics). If applicable, the outcomes of any consultations, assessments, considerations and implications considered necessary during preparation of this report are detailed below.

Background Papers – none

OFFICER CONTACT: Please contact Elizabeth Jackson, Democratic Services Manager, if you require any further information on the contents of this report. The officer can be contacted at *Democratic Services, PO Box 787, Harrogate HG1 9RW* by telephone 01423 500600 or e-mail democraticservices@harrogate.gov.uk