

<b>TITLE</b>	<b>Approval of a Period of Absence from Meetings by Councillor Oliver Whittle</b>
<b>FOR CONSIDERATION BY</b>	Council on 22 November 2018
<b>WARD</b>	Wescott;
<b>DIRECTOR</b>	Director of Corporate Services - Graham Ebers

**OUTCOME / BENEFITS TO THE COMMUNITY**

That Councillor Oliver Whittle remain in office as Member for Wescott Ward.

**RECOMMENDATION**

Council is recommended to:

- 1) note that Councillor Oliver Whittle has not been able to attend meetings of the Council due to ill-health since his attendance at Council on 19 July 2018;
- 2) extend its sympathy to Councillor Whittle and wish him a speedy recovery;
- 3) approve Councillor Oliver Whittle's non-attendance at meetings of the Council due to ill-health up to 22 May 2019 pursuant to Section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972.

**SUMMARY OF REPORT**

Regulations state that where a Council Member fails to attend any meeting of the relevant Authority, throughout a period of six consecutive months from the date of their last attendance, subject to certain exceptions, he/she ceases to be a Member of the Authority. However the Authority can approve the Member's non-attendance for specified reasons.

The report is asking Council to approve Councillor Oliver Whittle's non-attendance on the grounds of his ill-health.

## Background

1. Under Section 85(1) of the Local Government Act 1972 if a Member fails throughout a period of six consecutive months from the date of his/her last attendance to attend any meeting of the Council or as a representative of the Council on an Outside Body he/she shall, unless the failure was due to some reason approved by the Council before the expiry of that period, cease to be a member of the Authority.
2. Due to ill-health Councillor Oliver Whittle has not been able to attend any Council or Committee meetings since his attendance at the Council meeting on 19 July 2018 and has advised that it is unlikely that he will be able to attend any meetings in the near future. A request is therefore put forward to Council to approve an extension to the usual six month rule to enable Councillor Whittle to remain in office. If this request is not approved Councillor Whittle will cease to be a member of the Council on 19 January 2019.
3. Council is therefore asked to give approval to Councillor Whittle's non-attendance by reason of ill-health. This will be reviewed in six months' time, if Councillor Whittle remains absent.

## FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF THE RECOMMENDATION

***The Council faces severe financial challenges over the coming years as a result of the austerity measures implemented by the Government and subsequent reductions to public sector funding. It is estimated that Wokingham Borough Council will be required to make budget reductions in excess of £20m over the next three years and all Executive decisions should be made in this context.***

	How much will it Cost/ (Save)	Is there sufficient funding – if not quantify the Shortfall	Revenue or Capital?
Current Financial Year (Year 1)	£0		Revenue
Next Financial Year (Year 2)	£0		Revenue
Following Financial Year (Year 3)	£0		Revenue

### Other financial information relevant to the Recommendation/Decision

There are no financial implications related to this report.

### Cross-Council Implications

There are no cross-Council implications related to this report.

### List of Background Papers

Section 85(1) of the Local Government Act 1972

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