

TITLE	Approval of a Period of Absence from Meetings by Councillor Kate Haines
FOR CONSIDERATION BY	Council on 19 March 2015
WARD	Coronation
HEAD OF SERVICE	Andrew Moulton, Head of Governance and Improvement Services

OUTCOME / BENEFITS TO THE COMMUNITY

That Councillor Kate Haines remain in office as the Member for Coronation Ward until her current term of office ends on 10 May 2015 and continues until 18 September 2015 if she is subsequently re-elected at the local election being held on 7 May 2015.

RECOMMENDATION

Council is recommended to:

- 1) note that Councillor Kate Haines has not been able to attend meetings of the Council due to ill-health since her attendance at a meeting of the Adoption Panel on 25 September 2014;
- 2) extend its sympathy to Councillor Haines and send her its best wishes for a speedy recovery;
- 3) approve Councillor Kate Haines' non-attendance at meetings of the Council due to ill-health until her current term of office ends on 10 May 2015 and up to 18 September 2015 if she is subsequently re-elected at the forthcoming election 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 Kate Haines' non-attendance on the grounds of her 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 Kate Haines has not been able to attend any Council or Committee meetings since her attendance at a meeting of the Adoption Panel, to which she is appointed to by Council, on 25 September 2014 and therefore a request is put forward to Council to approve an extension to the usual six month rule to enable Councillor Haines to remain in office. If this request is not approved Councillor Haines will cease to be a member of the Council on 24 March 2015.
3. It should be noted that Councillor Haines' current term of office ceases on 10 May 2015. If she stands at the forthcoming local election, being held on 7 May 2015, and is subsequently re-elected the period of non-attendance would continue until the date agreed by Council.
4. Council is therefore asked to give approval to Councillor Haines non-attendance by reason of ill-health. This will be reviewed in six months' time, if Councillor Haines remains absent.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF THE RECOMMENDATION

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

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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