

Report to Council

19th December 2017

By the Chief Executive

DECISION REQUIRED



**Horsham
District
Council**

Not Exempt

Request for leave of absence – Councillor Costin

Executive Summary

To consider a request from Councillor Christine Costin for exemption from attendance at Council meetings as required by Section 85 (1) of the Local Government Act 1972.

Recommendations

That the current absence from all Council and Committee Meetings of Councillor Christine Costin due to her ill-health be authorised and approved for a further period of six months ending on 4th July 2018, or until she resumes attendance if that is sooner, in accordance with Section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972.

Reasons for Recommendations

To comply with the provisions of Section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972.

Background Papers

Email from Councillor Christine to the Chief Executive dated 6th December 2017.

Wards affected: Trafalgar.

Contact: Lesley Morgan, Democratic Services Manager, 01403 215123.

Background Information

1 Introduction and Background

- 1.1 Section 85 (1) 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 their last attendance, to attend any meeting of the Authority they will, 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.”
- 1.2 Councillor Christine Costin has not been able to attend any Council or Committee meetings since the Planning Committee (North) meeting held on 5th July 2017, due to illness, hospital admission and two major operations.
- 1.3 Council can only consider approval of any reasons for non-attendance before the end of the relevant six month period, which will be 4th January 2018. Councillor Costin has confirmed that she will not be able to attend any meetings before that date.

3 Details

- 3.1 The Chief Executive has received a request from Councillor Costin for the Council to consider approving an extension of a further six months to the usual six month attendance rule (i.e. until 4th July 2018) or until she resumes attendance if that is sooner, thus enabling her to remain in office whilst completing her recovery.

5 Outcome of Consultations

- 5.1 The Monitoring Officer and the Director of Corporate Resources have been consulted and their comments are incorporated.

7 Resource Consequences

- 7.1 There are no direct resource implications arising from this request. However, if not approved, the Council will incur expenditure in holding a by-election.