

# Public Document Pack

Supplementary Information (3) – Annual Council Meeting 21<sup>st</sup> May 2009

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# Agenda Item 4



## Democratic Services

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20<sup>th</sup> May 2009

To: All Members of Council

Dear Councillor

### **ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING – 21<sup>ST</sup> MAY 2009 – LATE ITEM**

Please find attached to this letter a report regarding the attendance of Councillor Atkinson at meetings of the authority. The Lord Mayor has admitted this as a late item to the agenda for the Annual Meeting with the reason for early consideration as given in paragraph 3.1 of the report.

Please include the report with your papers for the meeting.

Yours sincerely

Ian Walton  
Principal Governance Officer

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## Report of the Assistant Chief Executive (Corporate Governance)

### Council

Date: 21<sup>st</sup> May 2009

### Subject: Councillor Atkinson – Attendance at Meetings

#### Electoral Wards Affected:

Ward Members consulted  
(referred to in report)

#### Specific Implications For:

Equality and Diversity

Community Cohesion

Narrowing the Gap

## 1.0 Purpose Of This Report

- 1.1 To seek authorisation of Council to the continued absence of Councillor Atkinson from meetings of the authority beyond the six consecutive months allowed by statute

## 2.0 Background Information

- 2.1 Section 85(1) of the Local Government Act 1972 provides 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 meetings 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”.
- 2.2 Members may be aware of Councillor Atkinson’s current illness and that in the near future she will be undergoing a significant operation. Her last attendance at a meeting of the authority was at the Extraordinary meeting of Council held on 28<sup>th</sup> January 2009. Under the provisions of the Act she will cease to be a member if she fails to attend a further meeting before 28<sup>th</sup> July 2009.

## 3.0 Matter for Consideration

- 3.1 The Labour Group Whip has requested that consideration be given to an extension to the six month period being authorised by reason of Councillor Atkinson’s illness. It is expected that Councillor Atkinson will be subject to a significant recovery period, that this will extend beyond the six month period allowed and that early approval of an extension will be of significant reassurance to her. Council is asked to consider this request and an extension of a further six months over and above the statutory six months is suggested as being reasonable. The effect of the extension is that Councillor Atkinson would be authorised to not attend meetings until 28<sup>th</sup> January

2010 and that Council would be able to consider further extensions, if necessary, at either the scheduled November 2009 or January 2010 meetings.

#### **4.0 Recommendation**

- 4.1 That, by reason of Councillor Atkinson's illness, approval be given to her absence from meetings of the authority for a period of six months over and above the six months allowed by statute.

#### **Background Documents**

Local Government Act 1972