



**Report of City Solicitor**

**Report to Council**

**Date:** 11<sup>th</sup> September 2019

**Subject:** Attendance at meetings

Are specific electoral wards affected? If yes, name(s) of ward(s):	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Has consultation been carried out?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Are there implications for equality and diversity and cohesion and integration?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Will the decision be open for call-in?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? If relevant, access to information procedure rule number: Appendix number:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

**Summary**

**1. Main issues**

To seek authorisation of the Council to the absence of Councillor Tunnicliffe and Councillor Field from meetings of the authority for up to six consecutive months from the date of this meeting.

**2. Best Council Plan Implications** (click [here](#) for the latest version of the Best Council Plan)

Fully operational and quorate Committee, Board and Panel meetings are in line with the Council's Policies and City Priorities.

**3. Resource Implications**

There are no specific implications regarding resources and value for money arising from this report.

**Recommendations**

Council is asked to approve the absence of Councillor Tunnicliffe and Councillor Field from meetings of the authority for a period of six months from the date of this meeting.

## **1. Purpose of this report**

To seek authorisation of the Council to the absence of Councillor Tunnicliffe and Councillor Field from meetings of the authority for up to six consecutive months from the date of this meeting.

## **1 Background information**

Section 85 (1) of the Local Government Act 1972 makes provision in relation to member attendance at meetings. It provides that if a member fails to attend qualifying meetings for a period of 6 consecutive months from the date of their last attendance, they shall cease to be a member of the authority unless, before the expiry of that period the authority has approved such non-attendance.

Councillor Tunnicliffe is due to give birth in September 2019. At the time of writing this report her last attendance at a meeting of the authority was Scrutiny Board (Strategy & Resources) on 15<sup>th</sup> July 2019.

Councillor Field has been diagnosed with a serious illness and is undergoing ongoing treatment for this and has not been able to attend meetings due to a spell in hospital and is currently not well enough to attend meetings of the Council. At the time of writing this report her last attendance at a meeting of the authority was Outer East Community Committee on 18<sup>th</sup> June 2019.

## **2 Main issues**

The group whip for Councillor Tunnicliffe has requested that Council approve her absence from meetings of the authority for a period of 6 months from the date of this meeting for maternity reasons.

In addition to Full Council Councillor Tunnicliffe's committee memberships are Scrutiny Board (Strategy & Resources), Standards and Conduct Committee and the Inner North East Community Committee.

The group leader for Councillor Field has requested that Council approve her absence from meetings of the authority for a period of 6 months from the date of this meeting for health reasons.

In addition to Full Council Councillor Field's committee memberships are the Outer East Community Committee.

## **3 Corporate considerations**

### **3.1 Consultation and engagement**

3.1.1 The relevant group whip and group Leader hves been consulted on this report.

### **3.2 Equality and diversity / cohesion and integration**

3.2.1 There are no specific implications regarding equality, diversity, cohesion and integration arising from this report.

### **3.3 Council policies and the Best Council Plan**

3.3.1 Fully operational and quorate Committee, Board and Panel meetings are in line with the Council's Policies and City Priorities.

#### Climate Emergency

3.3.2 There are no specific implications in respect of the Climate Emergency.

### **3.4 Resources, procurement and value for money**

3.4.1 There are no specific implications regarding resources, procurement and value for money arising from this report.

### **3.5 Legal implications, access to information, and call-in**

3.5.1 This report is not subject to Call In, as it is a Council Function.

### **3.6 Risk management**

No specific implications in respect of risk management.

## **4 Recommendations**

Council is asked to approve the absence of Councillor Tunnicliffe and Councillor Field from meetings of the authority for a period of six months from the date of this meeting.

## **5 Background documents<sup>1</sup>**

5.1 None

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<sup>1</sup> The background documents listed in this section are available to download from the council's website, unless they contain confidential or exempt information. The list of background documents does not include published works.