

**Report of** City Solicitor  
**Report to** Council  
**Date:** 15 January 2014  
**Subject:** Attendance at Meetings

Are specific electoral Wards affected? If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s):	<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
Is the decision eligible 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 of main issues

- 1 To seek authorisation of the Council to the absence of Councillor Mitchell from meetings of the authority for up to six consecutive months.

### Recommendations

- 1 That approval be given to the absence of Councillor Mitchell from meetings of the authority for a period of six months from this meeting.

## **2 Purpose of this report**

- 2.1 To seek authorisation of the Council to the absence of Councillor Mitchell from meetings of the authority for up to six consecutive months.

## **3 Background information**

- 3.1 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.
- 3.2 Councillor Mitchell is due to give birth in January 2014. At the time of writing this report her last attendance at a meeting of the authority was Scrutiny Board (Children and Families) on 14<sup>th</sup> November 2013.

## **4 Main issues**

- 4.1 The group whip for Councillor Mitchell has requested that Council approve her absence from meetings of the authority for a period of 6 months for maternity reasons.
- 4.2 Councillor Mitchell's committee memberships are Scrutiny Board (Children and Families), Development Plan Panel, Member Management Committee and East (Outer) Area Committee.

### **4.1 Consultation and Engagement**

- 4.2 The relevant group whip has been consulted on this report.

### **4.3 Equality and Diversity / Cohesion and Integration**

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

### **4.4 Council policies and City Priorities**

- 4.4.1 There are no specific implications.

### **4.5 Resources and value for money**

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

### **4.6 Legal Implications, Access to Information and Call In**

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

### **4.7 Risk Management**

- 4.7.1 No specific implications

## **5 Recommendations**

- 5.1 Council is asked to approve the absence of Councillor Mitchell from meetings of the authority for a period of six months from this meeting.

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

- 6.1 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.