

**Report of** City Solicitor

**Report to** Council

**Date:** 23 March 2016

**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 Downes from meetings of the authority for up to six consecutive months.

### Recommendations

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

## **2 Purpose of this report**

- 2.1 To seek authorisation of the Council to the absence of Councillor Downes 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 Members may be aware that Councillor Downes has recently had an operation and his last attendance at a meeting of the authority was Full Council on 13th January 2016.

## **4 Main issues**

- 4.1 The group whip for Councillor Downes has requested that Council approve his absence from meetings of the authority for a period of up to 6 months for health reasons.
- 4.2 Councillor Downes committee memberships are Outer North West Community Committee, Licensing Committee and Council.

### **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 Downes from meetings of the authority for a period of up to 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.