

Attendance at meetings

Date: 13th November 2024

Report of: City Solicitor

Report to: Council

Will the decision be open for call in?

Yes No

Does the report contain confidential or exempt information?

Yes No

Brief summary

This report seeks authorisation of the Council to the absence of Councillor Smart from meetings of the authority for up to six consecutive months from the date of this meeting.

Recommendations

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

What is this report about?

- 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.
- 2 Councillor Smart recently gave birth and at the time of writing this report her last attendance at a meeting of the authority was the Inner West Community Committee on 2nd July 2024.
- 3 In addition to Full Council Councillor Smart's other committee membership is the Inner West Community Committee.
- 4 This report seeks authorisation of the Council to the absence of Councillor Smart from meetings of the authority for up to six consecutive months from the date of this meeting.

What impact will this proposal have?

- 5 It will ensure that Councillor Smart is authorised to be absent from meetings of the authority while on a period of maternity leave.

How does this proposal impact the three pillars of the Best City Ambition?

Health and Wellbeing Inclusive Growth Zero Carbon

- 6 Fully operational and quorate Committees, Boards and Panels and representation on external bodies are in line with the Council's Policies and the priorities including a Member on maternity leave having permission to be absent from meetings.

What consultation and engagement has taken place?

Wards affected:

Have ward members been consulted? Yes No

- 7 The relevant group whip has requested this report and has been consulted on the report.

What are the resource implications?

- 8 There are no specific resource implications associated with this report.

What are the key risks and how are they being managed?

- 9 The key risks would be a Member on a period of maternity leave and not able to attend a qualifying meeting of the Council ceasing to be a Member of the authority. This risk is being managed by this report.

What are the legal implications?

- 10 Section 85 (1) of the Local Government Act 1972 is relevant in respect of this report.

Options, timescales and measuring success

What other options were considered?

- 11 With a member absent on maternity leave no other options were considered.

How will success be measured?

12 Not applicable.

What is the timetable and who will be responsible for implementation?

13 The implementation of the decision would be immediately after the decision is made.

Appendices

- None

Background papers

- None