

## Attendance at meetings

Date: 15<sup>th</sup> January 2025

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 Brooks 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 Brooks 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 Brooks recently gave birth and at the time of writing this report her last attendance at a meeting of the authority was the City Plans Panel on 12th September 2024.
- 3 In addition to Full Council Councillor Brook's other committee memberships are the Inner North West Community Committee and City Plans Panel.
- 4 This report seeks authorisation of the Council to the absence of Councillor Brooks 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 Brooks 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