

**Report of the City Solicitor**

**Report to Council**

**Date: 18<sup>th</sup> January 2012**

**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 Councillors Charlwood, Mitchell and Atkinson from meetings of the authority for up to six consecutive months.

**Recommendations**

2. That approval be given to the absence of Councillors Charlwood, Mitchell and Atkinson from meetings of the authority for a period of six months from this meeting.

## **1 Purpose of this report**

- 1.1 To seek authorisation of the Council to the absence of Councillors Charlwood, Mitchell and Atkinson from meetings of the authority for up to six consecutive months.

## **2 Background information**

- 2.1 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.
- 2.2 Members may be aware that Councillor Charlwood has recently given birth and Councillor Mitchell is due to give birth shortly. At the time of writing this report their last attendance at a meeting of the authority was Council on 7<sup>th</sup> December 2011 and East Outer Area Committee on 13<sup>th</sup> December 2011 respectively.
- 2.3 Councillor Atkinson has had ongoing health issues which Members may be aware of and her last attendance at a meeting of the authority was West Inner Area Committee on 19<sup>th</sup> October 2011.

## **3 Main issues**

- 3.1 The group whip for Councillors Charlwood, Mitchell and Atkinson has requested that Council approve their absence from meetings of the authority for a period of 6 months for maternity and health reasons respectively.
- 3.2 Councillor Charlwood's committee memberships are Scrutiny Board (Children and Families), Member Management Committee and the North East (Inner) Area Committee.
- 3.3 Councillor Mitchell's committee memberships are Scrutiny Board (Regeneration), Development Plan Panel and East (Outer) Area Committee.
- 3.4 Councillor Atkinson's committee memberships are West Inner Area Committee and Scrutiny Board (Sustainable Economy and Culture).

## **4 Corporate Considerations**

### **4.1 Consultation and Engagement**

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

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

- 4.2.1 No specific implications.

### **4.3 Council Policies and City Priorities**

- 4.3.1 No specific implications.

#### **4.4 Resources and Value for Money**

4.4.1 No specific implications.

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

4.5.1 No specific implications.

#### **4.6 Risk Management**

4.6.1 No specific implications.

### **5 Recommendations**

5.1 Council is asked to approve the absence of Councillors Charlwood, Mitchell and Atkinson from meetings of the authority for a period of six months from this meeting.

### **6 Background documents**

6.1 None