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## Report of the Assistant Chief Executive (Corporate Governance)

### Council

Date: 18<sup>th</sup> April 2007

Subject: Councillor Mulherin – Attendance at Meetings

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**Electoral Wards Affected:**

**Specific Implications For:**

Equality and Diversity

Community Cohesion

Narrowing the Gap

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### 1.0 Purpose Of This Report

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

### 2.0 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 will be aware that Councillor Mulherin is pregnant with a birth expected imminently at the time of writing this report. Her last attendance at a meeting of the authority was Council on 17<sup>th</sup> January 2007

### 3.0 Matter for Consideration

- 3.1 Councillor Mulherin's party whip has requested that Council approve her absence from meetings of the authority for a period of 6 months for maternity reasons. Councillor Mulherin's committee memberships are Scrutiny Board (Children's Services) and the South (Outer) Area Committee.

### 4.0 Recommendations

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