



Borough of Telford and Wrekin

Full Council

Councillor Leave of Absence

Cabinet Member:	Cllr Zona Hannington – Cabinet Member: Finance, Governance & Customer Services
Lead Director:	Anthea Lowe – Director: Policy and Governance (Monitoring Officer)
Service Area:	Registrars, Public Protection, Legal and Democracy
Report Author:	Colin J Sweeney – Locum Democracy Manager
Officer Contact Details:	Tel: 01952 384190 Email: colin.sweeney@telford.gov.uk
Wards Affected:	Shawbirch and Dothill
Key Decision:	Not Key Decision
Forward Plan:	Not Applicable
Report considered by:	Full Council – 17 July 2025

1.0 Recommendation for Decision:

Council is recommended to:

- 1.1 Approve a leave of absence for Councillor Karen Tomlinson, for the purposes of section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972 until 16 January 2026.

2.0 Purpose of Report

- 2.1 Council is asked to approve a leave of absence for Councillor Karen Tomlinson, owing to caring responsibilities, until 16 January 2026

3.0 Background

- 3.1 Section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972, states that any member of a local authority who fails to attend any meeting of the authority for a period of six months ceases to be a member of that authority, unless the Council approves the reason for such failure before the expiry of that period of six months. This is known as the six-month rule.

4.0 Summary of main proposals

- 4.1 Councillor Karen Tomlinson has given notice to the Monitoring Officer to ask for a dispensation from Full Council to undertake a period of caring responsibilities for a close relative.
- 4.2 Full Council is recommended to approve a leave of absence for Councillor Karen Tomlinson until 16 January 2026 and note that this be an approved reason for the purposes of section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972.

5.0 Financial Implications

- 5.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

6.0 Legal and HR Implications

- 6.1 Full Council is empowered pursuant to section 85 the Local Government Act 1972, to agree the absence of Councillors where there is a risk that they may breach the six-month rule.

7.0 Background Papers

There are no background papers arising from this report.

8.0 Appendices

There are no appendices arising from this report.

9.0 Report Sign Off

Signed off by	Date sent	Date signed off	Initials
Legal	02/07/2025	03/07/2025	RP
Finance	02/07/2025	03/07/2025	PH