



Borough of Telford and Wrekin

Full Council

Thursday 13 November 2025

Councillor Leave of Absence

Cabinet Member:	Councillor Zona Hannington – Cabinet Member for Finance, Governance and Customer Services
Lead Director:	Anthea Lowe – Director of 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 Officer Contact Details:
Wards Affected:	Oakengates and Ketley Bank Madeley and Sutton Hill
Key Decision:	Not Key Decision
Forward Plan:	Not Applicable
Report considered by:	Full Council – 13 November 2025

1.0 Recommendation for Decision:

- 1.1 For the purposes of Section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972, Council is recommended to approve a leave of absence for:
- a) Councillor Gilly Latham-Reynolds, until 1 December 2026; and
 - b) Councillor Paul Watling, until 31 March 2026.

2.0 Purpose of Report

- 2.1 Council is asked to approve a leave of absence for Councillor Gilly Latham-Reynolds, owing to a period of maternity leave, until 1 December 2026; and for Councillor Paul Watling, owing to a period of ill-health, until 31 March 2026.

3.0 Background

Councillor Leave of Absence

- 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 Gilly Latham-Reynolds has given notice to the Monitoring Officer to seek a leave of absence for the purpose of undertaking a period of maternity leave.
- 4.2 Councillor Paul Watling has given notice to the Monitoring Officer to seek a leave of absence owing to a period of ill-health.
- 4.3 Full Council is asked to approve a leave of absence for Councillor Gilly Latham-Reynolds until 1 December 2026 and Councillor Paul Watling until 31 March 2026 and note that these be approved reasons for the purposes of Section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972.
- 4.4 It should be noted that Full Council has delegated authority to the Monitoring Officer to make any changes to committee membership upon receipt of notice from the relevant Group Leader which may arise as a result of these leaves of absence being granted.

5.0 Financial Implications

- 5.1 In accordance with the parental leave policy approved by Council in September 2019, there will be consequential changes to Special Responsibility Allowances arising out of these proposals. These will be met from within existing budgets.

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	05/11/2025	05/11/2025	RP
Finance	22/10/2025	22/10/2025	ER