

**TELFORD & WREKIN COUNCIL**

**COUNCIL – 21 MAY 2020**

**ATTENDANCE AT MEETINGS OF THE AUTHORITY**

**REPORT OF THE DEPUTY MONITORING OFFICER**

**LEAD CABINET MEMBER – CLLR RAE EVANS**

**PART A) – SUMMARY REPORT**

**1. SUMMARY OF MAIN PROPOSALS**

- 1.1 It is proposed that Council formally approves the reasons outlined within paragraph 4.3 as an approved reason for non-attendance at authority meetings under s.85 Local Government Act 1972.
- 1.2 It is proposed that this matter be reviewed by no later than the next Annual Council meeting.

**2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

**It is recommended that Council:-**

- 2.1 Approves the reason for non-attendance as set out in paragraph 4.3 of this report.**
- 2.2 Requires that all Members who find themselves having to rely upon the reasons set out in this report, inform the Monitoring Officer when this occurs.**
- 2.3 Agrees to review this matter by no later than the next Annual Council meeting.**

**3. SUMMARY IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

<b>COMMUNITY IMPACT</b>	Do these proposals contribute to specific Co-Operative Council priority objective(s)?	
	Yes	<i>Members assist in the discharge of the Council's functions and decision making. The Council's decision-making processes underpin the Council's overriding objective to protect, care and invest to create a better Borough.</i>

	Will the proposals impact on specific groups of people?	
	No	
<b>TARGET COMPLETION/DELIVERY DATE</b>	21 May 2020	
<b>FINANCIAL/VALUE FOR MONEY IMPACT</b>	No	There are no financial implications arising from adopting the recommendations of this report.
<b>LEGAL ISSUES</b>	Yes	The Legal issues are addressed in the main body of this report. AL – 14/5/2020
<b>OTHER IMPACTS, RISKS &amp; OPPORTUNITIES</b>	No	N/A
<b>IMPACT ON SPECIFIC WARDS</b>	No	Borough-wide impact

## **PART B) – ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

### **4. INFORMATION**

4.1 The Local Government Act 1972 sets out that Members are required to attend a meeting of the authority at least once in 6 months. Members can attend a variety of meetings to satisfy this requirement. In the event that they do not do so, then they automatically cease to be a Member of the Council. This applies unless the reason for the failure to attend is one that has been approved by Council.

4.2 As a result of the current Covid-19 pandemic, it is anticipated that fewer meetings will take place and, therefore, there will be fewer opportunities for Members to satisfy the requirements of s.85 Local Government Act 1972. Additionally, there is a possibility that some members, following Public Health England and national guidance during the pandemic, will not be able to attend meetings (whether that be remotely or in person).

4.3 It is recommended that Council approves the following reason for non-attendance:-

*During the declared pandemic, any Councillors who are unable to attend Council meetings, having followed Government, Public Health England and NHS advice relating to Covid-19 will have an approved reason for non-attendance at meetings provided that such member has notified the Monitoring Officer of the need to rely upon such reason before the expiry of 6 months since they last attended a meeting.*

4.4 The reason stated above will encompass the following circumstances:-

- Where no meetings that an individual Member is entitled to attend;
- Where an individual Member is ill or self-isolating as a result of Covid-19 symptoms or as a result of a household member being ill or displaying symptoms;
- Where an individual Member is advised, for other reasons to self-isolate or shield (due to, for example, an underlying health condition); and
- Where an individual Member is unable to attend a meeting through remote means.

4.5 Members are requested to contact the Council's Monitoring Officer in order that the reason for non-attendance can be recorded and to ensure that it is a reason that falls within the above description.

**5. IMPACT ASSESSMENT – ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

Not applicable.

**6. PREVIOUS MINUTES**

Not applicable.

**7. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

None.

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