



Borough of Telford and Wrekin

Full Council

Thursday 29 February 2024

Councillor Leave of Absences

Cabinet Member:	Cllr Nathan England - Cabinet Member: Finance, Customer Services & Governance
Lead Director:	Anthea Lowe - Director: Policy & Governance
Service Area:	Policy & Governance
Report Author:	Paige Starkey - Senior Democracy Officer (Scrutiny)
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Wards Affected:	Dawley & Aqueduct, The Nedge
Key Decision:	Not Key Decision
Forward Plan:	Not Applicable
Report considered by:	Full Council – 29 February 2024

1.0 Recommendations for decision/noting:

Council is asked to:-

- 1.1 Approve a leave of absence for Councillor Leanne Powers from 13 June 2024 until 14 November 2024; and
- 1.2 Approve a leave of absence for Councillor Lyndsey Parker from 29 May 2024 until 24 January 2025.

2.0 Purpose of Report

- 2.1 This report seeks the approval of Full Council for a leave of absence for Councillor Powers who owing to caring responsibilities will be at risk of not attending a meeting of the Council within a period of 6 months and for Councillor Parker for the purpose of maternity leave.

3.0 Background

Councillor Leave of Absence

3.1 Members will be aware that the Local Government Act 1972 requires Members to attend a meeting of the authority at least once in 6 months. 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. This is known as the 6 month rule.

4.0 Summary of main proposals

4.1 Leave of absences are sought for two Members. Councillor Leanne Powers has requested a period of leave owing to caring responsibilities and Councillor Lyndsey Parker is currently on maternity leave.

4.2 It is intended that the leave of absence for Councillor Powers is granted from 13 June 2024 until 14 November 2024, being the date of November's Full Council. It is further intended that the leave of absence for Councillor Parker is granted from 29 May 2024 until 24 January 2025 owing to maternity leave. Nothing would preclude the Councillors from returning to their duties at an earlier date.

4.3 Members will note that the request for the leave of absences is being sought now, because legislation prevents a request for a leave of absence to be added to the agenda of the Annual General Meeting and Full Council is then not scheduled to meet until 18 July 2024.

4.4 In September 2019, Full Council approved a parental leave policy which allows Members to take an extended leave of absence for parental purposes. The proposals in this report are in line with that policy.

5.0 Alternative Options

5.1 There are no alternative options arising from this report.

6.0 Key Risks

6.1 None.

7.0 Council Priorities

7.1 A community-focussed, innovative council providing efficient, effective and quality services.

8.0 Financial Implications

8.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report.

9.0 Legal and HR Implications

9.1 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.

10.0 Ward Implications

10.1 During the leaves of absence, casework will be covered by the remaining ward members.

11.0 Health, Social and Economic Implications

11.1 There are no specific health, social and economic implications arising from this report.

12.0 Equality and Diversity Implications

12.1 There are no equality and diversity implications arising from this report.

13.0 Climate Change and Environmental Implications

13.1 There are no climate change or environmental implications arising from this report.

14.0 Background Papers

14.1 There are no background papers to this report.

15.0 Appendices

15.1 There are no appendices to this report.

16.0 Report Sign Off

Signed off by Legal	Date sent 19/02/2024	Date signed off 21/02/2024	Initials RP
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