



City of Doncaster Council

Report

21st September, 2023

To the Chair and All Members of the Council

Report Title: Approval of Councillor Absence

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. This report requests that Council note the action taken by the Monitoring Officer (Acting under delegated authority) in approving the request from Councillor Rob Reid for an extension of absence from attendance at meetings due to ill health until 16th December, 2023.

EXEMPT REPORT

2. This report is not exempt

RECOMMENDATIONS

3. That Council note the action taken by the Monitoring Officer in accordance with Section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972, in approving an extension of absence from attendance at meetings due to ill health, for Councillor Rob Reid until 16th December, 2023.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR THE CITIZENS OF DONCASTER?

4. This action ensures locally elected Members can continue to represent their constituents following or during periods of ill health or other genuine reasons which may otherwise prevent them from attending meetings of the local authority during a six month period.



BACKGROUND

5. Section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972, provides that if a Member of a Local Authority fails throughout a period of six consecutive months from the date of his/her last attendance, to attend any meeting of the Authority, he/she shall cease to be a Member of the Council, unless the failure is due to some reason approved by the Authority before the expiry of that period.
6. At its meeting on 27th November, 2014, Council granted the Monitoring Officer delegated authority to approve extended periods of absence for Members. Any request is to be submitted in writing to the Monitoring Officer prior to the expiration of the fifth month of absence, and if satisfied that the grounds for request was reasonable, such approvals are to be reported to the next available meeting of Council by the Monitoring Officer, for information.
7. Due to ill health resulting in surgery in May 2023 and a period of recuperation, Councillor Rob Reid has been unable to attend meetings.
8. Councillor Reid's last recorded attendance was at the Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Panel on 16th March, 2023, meaning Councillor Reid would be required to attend a meeting of the Authority by 16th September, 2023.
9. The Monitoring Officer, under delegated authority, approved an extension of absence from attendance at meetings due to ill health for Councillor Reid until 16th December, 2023.

OPTIONS CONSIDERED

10. There were no other options considered.







REASONS FOR RECOMMENDED OPTION



11. In the event that the Monitoring Officer did not feel able to approve the request, an Extraordinary Meeting of Council would have to have been called to consider Councillor Reid's request.

IMPACT ON THE COUNCIL'S KEY OUTCOMES

12. Whilst there is no direct impact on the Council's Key Outcomes, the Council is committed to maintaining the highest standards of Governance to allow for the proper discharge of the Council's functions, ensuring openness and transparency.

Great 8 Priority	Positive Overall	Mix of Positive & Negative	Trade-offs to consider	Neutral or No implications
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				- Negative overall	
 Tackling Climate Change					✓
Comments:					
 Developing the skills to thrive in life and in work					✓
Comments:					
 Making Doncaster the best place to do business and create good jobs					✓
Comments:					
 Building opportunities for healthier, happier and longer lives for all					✓
Comments:					
 Creating safer, stronger, greener and cleaner communities where everyone belongs					✓
Comments:					
 Nurturing a child and family-friendly borough					✓

Comments:				
 Building Transport and digital connections fit for the future				
Comments:				
 Promoting the borough and its cultural, sporting, and heritage opportunities				✓
Comments:				
Fair & Inclusive				✓
Comments:				

Legal Implications [Officer Initials: NC Date: 8/9/23]

13. Section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972 provides that if a Member of a Local Authority fails to attend meetings through a period of six consecutive months, he/she shall cease to be a Member of the Authority unless the failure to attend is due to a reason approved by the Authority before the expiry of that six month period.
14. At its meeting on 27th November, 2014, Council granted the Monitoring Officer delegated authority to approve extended periods of absence for Members if satisfied that the grounds for such a request are reasonable. Such approvals are to be reported to the next available meeting of Council by the Monitoring Officer, for information.
15. The authority of the Monitoring Officer to undertake this function is detailed in the Constitution at Part 3 – Responsibility For Functions, 3.8 Full Council Functions – Scheme of Delegations (e).

Financial Implications [Officer Initials: PH | Date: 31/08/23]

16. There are no specific financial implications relevant to this report.

Human Resources Implications [Officer Initials: RH | Date: 8/9/23]

17. There are no specific Human Resource implications relevant to this report.

Technology Implications [Officer Initials: PW Date: 31/08/23]

18. There are no specific technology implications relevant to this report

RISKS AND ASSUMPTIONS

19. There are no risks and assumptions relevant to this report.

CONSULTATION

20. Consultation and communication has been ongoing with Councillor Reid during his ill health to support him in his role.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

21. None

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