



**NORTHAMPTON**  
BOROUGH COUNCIL

# **COUNCIL**

## **14<sup>th</sup> December 2015**

**Agenda Status: Public**

**Directorate: Borough Secretary**

<b>Report Title</b>	<b>Approval of Councillor non-attendance at meetings</b>
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### **1. Purpose**

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- 1.1 To ask Full Council to approve Councillor Vicky Culbard's reason for non-attendance at meetings of the authority

### **2. Recommendations**

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Full Council is recommended to:

- approve Councillor Vicky Culbard's reason of ill-health, as a reason for non-attendance at meetings of the authority, pursuant to section 85(1) of the Local Government Act 1972, in order that if six consecutive months elapse from Councillor Culbard's last attendance at a meeting of the authority, she will not cease to be a member of the authority through failure to attend.

### **3. Issues and Choices**

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#### **3.1 Report Background**

- 3.1.1 Section 85(1) of the Local Government Act 1972 states that, subject to some limited exceptions, *"if a member of a local authority fails throughout a period of six consecutive months from the date of his last attendance to attend any meeting of the authority, he shall, unless the failure was due to some reason approved by the authority before the expiry of that period, cease to be a member of the authority"*.
- 3.1.2 Councillor Vicky Culbard has since her election to the Council in May 2015, been attending meetings of Full Council, Licensing Committee and Licensing Sub-Committee. However, Councillor Culbard has advised that she has an illness that is likely to prevent her from attending meetings of the authority for a considerable period of time.

- 3.1.3 The last qualifying meeting that Councillor Culbard attended was [Licensing Sub-Committee on 29<sup>th</sup> October 2015]. (Section 85(2) of the Local Government Act 1972 provides that attendance at a meeting of any sub-committee of the authority shall be deemed to be attendance at a meeting of the authority for the purpose of section 85(1)).
- 3.1.4 In order to ensure that Councillor Culbard does not automatically cease to be a member of Northampton Borough Council as a result of not attending any meeting of the Council for a consecutive period of six months, Full Council are asked to approve Councillor Culbard's reason of illness as a reason for absence.
- 3.1.5 If Council accept the recommendation and approve Councillor Culbard's reason for absence this would mean that if six consecutive months do elapse from Councillor Culbard's last attendance at a meeting on 29<sup>th</sup> October 2015 (that is, if 28<sup>th</sup> April 2016 is reached) where Councillor Culbard has not been able to attend any meetings of the authority through illness, she will **not** cease to be a member of the Council through failure to attend. If Council do accept the recommendation, it will not prevent Councillor Culbard from returning to meetings at any time.

#### **4. Implications (including financial implications)**

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##### **4.1 Policy**

The report does not have any policy implications.

##### **4.2 Resources and Risk**

There are no resource implications arising directly from this report.

##### **4.3 Legal**

The legal implications are outlined in the body of this report.

##### **4.4 Equality**

There are no equality implications arising directly from this report.

##### **4.5 Other Implications**

None.

#### **5. Background Papers**

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None.

**Francis Fernandes**  
**Borough Secretary and Monitoring Officer**