

NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

COUNCIL – 10 SEPTEMBER 2019

URGENT REPORT

Title of report	DISPENSATION FOR EXTENDED ABSENCE
Contacts	Councillor Tony Gillard Tony.gillard@nwleicestershire.gov.uk Chief Executive 01530 454500 Bev.smith@nwleicestershire.gov.uk Head of Legal and Support Services 01530 454762 elizabeth.warhurst@nwleicestershire.gov.uk
Purpose of report	This report provides details regarding the proposal that Council approve a period of absence from meetings by a Councillor pursuant to Section 85(1) of the Local Government Act 1972.
Council Priorities	Homes and Communities
Implications:	
Financial/Staff	No direct implications.
Link to relevant CAT	No direct implications.
Risk Management	The council has a statutory duty to consider such requests.
Equalities Impact Screening	No direct implications.
Human Rights	No direct implications.
Transformational Government	No direct implications.
Comments of Head of Paid Service	The report is satisfactory
Comments of Section 151 Officer	The report is satisfactory
Comments of Monitoring Officer	The report is satisfactory
Consultees	Whip of the Conservative Group.
Background papers	http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1972/70/section/85

Recommendations	IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT (1) COUNCIL SENDS ITS THOUGHTS AND BEST WISHES TO COUNCILLOR DAVID STEVENSON; (2) COUNCILLOR DAVID STEVENSON BE GRANTED DISPENSATION FOR EXTENDED ABSENCE FROM ALL MEETINGS IN HIS ROLE AS COUNCILLOR FOR THE WORTHINGTON & BREEDON WARD FOR A PERIOD OF SIX MONTHS.
-----------------	---

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 Councillor David Stevenson has been suffering from ill health and is currently being looked after at the Queens Medical Centre in Nottingham. He is therefore unable to attend this meeting.
- 1.2 Section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972 provides that if a member of a local authority fails to attend a meeting of the authority for a period of six consecutive months without approval from Council, then he/she will cease to be a member of the authority.
- 1.3 Councillor Stevenson last attended a meeting on 21 May 2019 which would result in him ceasing to be a member on 20 November 2019.
- 1.4 There is provision for Council to grant dispensation for an extended absence where the circumstances demand it.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 It is proposed that a six month dispensation be granted to Councillor Stevenson to prevent him ceasing to be a member from 20 November 2019. The six month dispensation would expire on 9 March 2020. This would not prevent Councillor Stevenson from returning to meetings at any time, if his health allowed, but would give flexibility and prevent further recourse if he failed to attend any meetings during this time.