

Report to Council

Subject: Non-attendance by a Councillor for six months

Date: 21 November 2018

Author: Service Manager Democratic Services.

1. Purpose of the Report

For Council to consider whether to approve a reason for the non-attendance of Councillor Denis Beeston MBE.

Recommendation

It is recommended that Council accepts ill health as the reason for non-attendance of Councillor Denis Beeston MBE to avoid forfeiture of office.

2. Background

- 2.1 Councillor Beeston has been unable to attend any meetings relating to the discharge of the Council's functions in recent months due to a period of ill health. Councillor Beeston last attended Council on 23 May 2018.
- 2.2 Section 85(1) of the Local Government Act 1972 states that when a Councillor does not attend any council meeting for six consecutive months, he ceases to be a member of the authority unless the Council accepts the reason for his non-attendance.
- 2.3 The Council can only consider a reason before the end of the 6 month period. If the six month period expires the Councillor will automatically cease to be a member and if a Councillor loses his office through non-attendance for the six month period, this cannot simply be overcome by him subsequently resuming attendance.
- 2.4 The office does not become vacant automatically and becomes vacant only when the authority declares it to be vacant. Once the Council declares it to be vacant, a casual vacancy arises.

- 2.5 Councillor Beeston has been unable to attend Council meetings due to ill health. If the Council does not approve this as a reason for non-attendance and he is not able to attend any further meetings Council before 23 November 2018, he will automatically cease to be a member of the Council.

3. Proposal

It is proposed that Council accepts ill health as the reason for non-attendance of Councilor Beeston to avoid forfeiture of office.

4. Resource Implications

None arising from this report.