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Date: 16 March 2023

Dear Member

COUNTY COUNCIL - THURSDAY, 23 MARCH 2023

Following the Chair's agreement to the inclusion of this additional item on the 23 March 2023 County Council agenda. In considering the addition of this matter to the published agenda, the Chair determined that it was not possible to defer the issue to a future meeting in view of legal arrangements relating to Member Leave of Absence procedure and it was therefore necessary to ensure it was taken at the 23 March meeting.

Please note that the order of business may be varied to consider this item earlier in the agenda.

Agenda Item No

12 **Request for Extended Leave of Absence (Pages 1 - 2)**

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ben Watts', is written over a faint, illegible printed name.

Benjamin Watts
General Counsel

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By: Joel Cook – Democratic Services Manager
To: County Council – 23 March 2023
Subject: Request for Extended Leave of Absence
Classification: Unrestricted

Introduction

1. Under Section 85 (1) of the Local Government Act 1972, 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 or as a representative of the Authority on an outside body, s/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.
2. This requirement can be waived and the time limit extended if any failure to attend was due to a reason approved by the Authority in advance of the six month period expiring.

Request for Extended Leave

3. Following a discussion with his Group Leader and consultation with the Leader of the Council, Mr Dan Daley is asking the County Council to consider a request for extended leave because of ill-health.
4. Mr Daley has not been able to attend any Council or Committee meetings since 20 October 2022. The Council can only consider approval of any reasons for non-attendance before the relevant six month period, which will be 20 April 2023. Mr Daley has indicated that time is required to recover from this ongoing period of ill-health and he therefore requests that the time limit be extended to facilitate a future return to the role of Member. On that basis, an extended leave of absence is requested for a period not exceeding six months (namely to 20 October 2023).

Recommendation

In accordance with Section 85 (1) of the Local Government Act 1972 the County Council is asked to consider Mr Daley's request for extended leave to 20 October 2023 on the grounds of ill health.

Report Author

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