

Full Council

20 October 2022

Dispensation Under Section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972

For Decision

Portfolio Holder: Cllr S Flower, Leader of the Council

Local Councillor(s): N/a

Executive Director: J Mair, Director of Legal & Democratic

Report Author: Susan Dallison

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Report Status: Public

Brief Summary:

Under Section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972, if a member of a local authority fails to attend a meeting throughout a period of 6 consecutive months, from the date of the last attendance, they shall cease to be a member of the local authority, unless the failure to attend was due to some reason approved by the Full Council before the expiry of that period.

Recommendation:

To approve a dispensation for Cllr J Dover from attending meetings of the Council for a period of 6 months commencing on 12th November 2022, by reason of ill health.

Reason for Recommendation:

To comply with the requirements of the Section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972 and to enable Cllr Dover time to recuperate without the risk of losing her seat as a Dorset Councillor.

1. **Report**

- 1.1 Due to Coronavirus all councillors were granted a dispensation for non-attendance at meetings for the period up to 14th April 2022. After the end of this dispensation period Cllr Dover's first opportunity to attend a meeting was the Annual Meeting of Council on 12th May 2022 for which she sent her apologies. Due to ill health Cllr Dover has not been able to attend meetings since May and may not be able to attend committee and Full Council meetings over the coming months; without a dispensation from Full Council Cllr Dover would cease to be a member of Dorset Council if she is not well enough to attend Full Council in December. Full Council is therefore requested to grant this request for a dispensation, for non-attendance, in advance of the end of the 6-month period which will be 12th November 2022.
- 1.2 The Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group has been consulted about this process and agrees the recommendation contained within this report. Arrangements have been put in place for Cllr M Roe to deal with Cllr Dover's ward work.

2. **Financial Implications**

None

3. **Climate Implications**

None

4. **Well-being and Health Implications**

None

Other Implications

None

Risk Assessment

- 6.1 **HAVING CONSIDERED:** the risks associated with this decision; the level of risk has been identified as:

Current Risk: low

Residual Risk: low

Equalities Impact Assessment

N/a

Appendices

None

Background Papers

None