

HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

Title/Subject Matter: Resolution to Extend 6 Month Rule – Section 85 Local Government Act 1972.

Meeting/Date: Council – 21 July 2021.

Report by: Managing Director.

Ward(s) affected: Huntingdon East.

**Executive
Summary:**

The purpose of this report is to consider an extension of the 6-month rule for Councillor P E Shrapnel on the grounds of ill-health.

RECOMMENDATION:

that, in accordance with Section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972, Council approves Councillor P E Shrapnel's non-attendance at meetings until the 30th November 2021 on the grounds of continued ill-health and the Council's best wishes be conveyed to her.

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1. WHAT IS THIS REPORT ABOUT/PURPOSE?

- 1.1 Section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972 states that if a member of a local authority fails throughout a period of six consecutive months from the date of their last attendance to attend any meeting of the authority, they shall, cease to a member of the authority. The only exception is if their non-attendance has been approved by the authority before the expiry of that period. Attendance can be at any committee or sub-committee, or at any joint committee, joint board or other body where the functions of the authority are discharged or who were appointed to advise the authority on any matter relating to the discharge of their functions. Section 85 of the Act allows an authority to grant dispensation for such absence providing the dispensation is granted before the 6-month period of absence has expired.

2. WHY IS THIS REPORT NECESSARY/BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Councillor Patricia Shrapnel has been unable to attend meetings recently on ill-health grounds and is currently undergoing treatment. The last meeting Councillor Shrapnel attended was the Licensing and Protection Committee on 10th March 2021. Under the circumstances, it is requested that Council approve an extension of the 6-month rule for Councillor Shrapnel until the 30th November 2021 and the Council's best wishes be conveyed to her. This would not prevent Councillor Shrapnel from returning to meetings at any time, if her health allowed, but would give flexibility and prevent further recourse to the Council.

3. KEY IMPACTS/RISKS? HOW WILL THEY BE ADDRESSED?

- 3.1 Councillor P E Shrapnel's District Ward duties will continue to be undertaken by her ward colleagues.

4. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 None

5. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

5. 1 None

6 REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDED DECISIONS

- 6.1 Owing to the continued ill-health of Councillor P E Shrapnel, it is requested that her non-attendance at meetings be approved until 30th November 2021.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Local Government Act 1972
Attendance Records – Huntingdonshire District Council

CONTACT OFFICER

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