

Division: Burford and Carterton North

COUNCIL – 1 November 2022
DISPENSATION FROM ATTENDING MEETINGS

Report of the Director of Law & Governance and Monitoring Officer

RECOMMENDATION

Council is RECOMMENDED to

- (a) Grant a dispensation to Cllr Nicholas Field-Johnson from the statutory requirement to attend a meeting of the Council within a six-month period from the last noted attendance for family reasons.
- (b) Approve that the dispensation last up to and including 31 December 2022.

Executive Summary

1. Full Council has the discretion to approve a dispensation, based on the circumstances of the case, which means that the councillor does not cease to be a member of the Council for failing to attend a meeting during a six-month period.
2. Meetings of the authority include meetings of full Council along with committees and sub-committees of which the councillor is a member.
3. Councillor Nicholas Field-Johnson who represents the Burford and Carterton North Division has been unable to attend meetings since 17 May 2022. He was intending to be at the meeting of full Council on 13 September 2022 but that was postponed until 7 October 2022 due to the death of the Queen. He is not able to attend the meeting of full Council on 1 November 2022 due to the illness of a family member.
4. If the dispensation is not granted by Council, Cllr Field-Johnson will cease to be a member of the Council on 17 November 2022 unless he attends a meeting before that date.

Financial Implications

There are no direct financial implications directly arising from this report

Legal Implications

5. 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, 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'. The Monitoring Officer has been contacted by Cllr Field-Johnson, and his Group Leader, Cllr Eddie Reeves, seeking Full Council's approval to grant a dispensation. The Monitoring Officer is satisfied that, having regard to the circumstances, the Council would be justified in granting the dispensation until 31 December 2022.

Equality and Inclusion Implications

9. There are no direct equality and inclusion implications arising from this report

Sustainability Implications

10. There are no direct sustainability implications arising from this report

Risk Management

11. There are no direct risk management implications arising from this report

Anita Bradley

Director of Law & Governance and Monitoring Officer

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