

Ward: Marine

## **Councillor Joan Bradley – extension of six month attendance rule**

### **Report by the Director for Communities**

#### **1.0 Summary**

- 1.1 Councillor Joan Bradley last attended a formal meeting of the Council on 24 November 2015, due to ongoing ill health Councillor Bradley has been unable to attend meetings of the Council.
- 1.2 Formal approval of Councillor Bradley's absence over the six month rule is sought on her behalf from Council.

#### **2.0 Background**

- 2.1 Councillor Bradley last attended a formal meeting of Council on 24 November 2015, (the Joint Governance Committee); her attendance is recorded in the minutes. Since then Councillor Bradley has been involved in an accident, receiving treatment and convalescence in hospital, however her mobility remains restricted. Walking and travel to the Town Hall is difficult without assistance, sitting for periods of time is uncomfortable.
- 2.2 Councillor Bradley carries out her Borough Councillor duties with endeavour and commitment. Her ward duties have been covered by the other Marine Ward Councillors.
- 2.3 Councillor Bradley's health and mobility is improving and expects to be able to resume her attendance at meetings in due course.
- 2.3 Councillor Bradley's six month attendance would be calculated from 24 November 2015, which is 23 May 2016.
- 2.4 The Democratic Service Manager has discussed with Councillor Bradley her ongoing recovery, assistance that can be offered and the contents of this report.

#### **3.0 Proposals**

- 3.1 Council is invited to consider approving Councillor Bradley's absence from Official duties and attendance at meetings for a period of up to six months, to 24 November 2016.

3.2 If Council does not officially approve Councillor Bradley's absence then the vacancy will be declared on 24 May 2016.

#### **4.0 Legal**

4.1 The Local Government Act 1972, Section 85 requires that 'if a member of a local authority fails throughout a period of six consecutive months from the date of his last attendance to attend any meeting of the authority, 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'.

4.2 Calculation of Councillor Bradley's six month attendance is from 24 November 2015

#### **5.0 Financial implications**

5.1 There are no additional costs to approving Councillor Bradley's continuing absence.

#### **6.0 Recommendation**

6.1 That Councillor Bradley's continuing absence is approved by Council until the meeting of the Council on 25 October 2016.

### **Local Government Act 1972**

#### **Background Papers:**

Minutes Joint Governance Committee  
20 November 2015

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## **Schedule of Other Matters**

### **1.0 Council Priority**

1.1 This report does not link to any Corporate Priority

### **2.0 Specific Action Plans**

2.1 None

### **3.0 Sustainability Issues**

3.1 Matter considered.

### **4.0 Equality Issues**

4.1 Matter considered and included within the report

### **5.0 Community Safety Issues (Section 17)**

5.1 Matter considered, no issues identified

### **6.0 Human Rights Issues**

6.1 Matter considered

### **7.0 Reputation**

7.1 Council will need to consider any reputational damage of not extending the six month rule for Councillor Bradley due to her ill-health and convalescence.

### **8.0 Consultations**

8.1 Director for Communities, Leader of the Council, Returning Officer

### **9.0 Risk Assessment**

9.1 Should Council not agree to extend the six month attendance rule then Council will need to consider the resulting vacancy in Marine Ward; Councillor Bradley has just been re-elected to the Council at the recent Borough elections.

### **10.0 Health & Safety Issues**

10.1 Matter considered, no issues identified.

### **11.0 Procurement Strategy**

11.1 Matter considered, no issues identified

### **12.0 Partnership Working**

12.1 Matter considered, no issues identified