



Adur Council
22 July 2021

ADUR DISTRICT COUNCIL

Councillor attendance and the six month rule

Report by the Director for Communities

Executive Summary

1. Purpose

1.1 Local Government legislation provides that a Councillor will cease to be a Member of a Local Authority if they fail to attend a meeting of the Council for a period of six months without approval for their absence.

1.2 This report seeks the Council's approval for the absence of a Councillor from meetings

2. Recommendations

2.1 That Adur District Council approves Councillor Simmons' absence from Council meetings for a 6 month period from 18 August 2021 to 18 February 2022

3. Background

3.1 Councillors Simmons last attended a formal meeting of the Council on 18 February 2021, and has been unable to attend a meeting of the Council, it's

Committees, Sub-Committees or Joint Committees since that date, as a result of a serious health condition

- 3.2 Formal approval of Councillor Simmons' absence is sought from the Council. Should such approval be given, it would prevent the 'six month rule' applying and prevent him ceasing to be a Member of the Council on 18 August 2021.

4.0 Issues to Consider

- 4.1 Cllr Simmons suffered from a serious health matter in 2020 and is recuperating. Cllr Simmons managed to attend Full Council on the 18 February, however, Officers have been informed by the relevant group Leader that Cllr Simmons is unlikely to be able to attend the Council meeting on the 22 July 2021 due to ongoing health concerns which would mean that Cllr Simmons would fall foul of the six month rule and cease to be a Councillor. Therefore a six month absence extension is being sought.

5.0 Proposals

- 5.1 Council are asked to approve the absence of Councillor Simmons for six months (from the 18 August) until the 18 February 2022

6.0 Legal

- 6.1 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'.

7.0 Financial implications

- 7.1 There are no additional costs arising from this report.

Local Government Act 1972

Background Papers:

Minutes Adur District Council Meeting 18 February 2021

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