



## Report of the Head of Democratic Services

Council - 26 March 2020

### Dispensation for Councillor Leave of Absence – All Councillors

<b>Purpose:</b>	To seek dispensation for Councillor leave of absence in accordance with Section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972.
<b>Policy Framework:</b>	None.
<b>Consultation:</b>	Access to Services, Finance, Legal.
<b>Recommendation(s):</b>	It is recommended that Council:  1) Notes that having regard to UK, WG and Public Health Wales guidance the majority of Council Committees requiring Councillor attendance are being cancelled and that it is not known when Committee meetings will begin to be rescheduled;  2) Agrees that in the event any Councillor listed in Appendix A cannot attend a Council meeting, for a period of 6 consecutive months, owing to the Covid-19 virus then their failure to attend any meetings is approved by the Council in accordance with Section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972.
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<b>Finance Officer:</b>	Ben Smith
<b>Legal Officer:</b>	Tracey Meredith
<b>Access to Services Officer:</b>	Rhian Millar

#### 1. Introduction

- 1.1 The World Health Organisation (WHO) recently declared the Covid-19 virus as a pandemic. In light of this, it is possible that a number of Councillors may have to self-isolate. Self-isolation could lead to a Councillor being absent for a period of many months. This could result in a breach of Section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972 whereby failure to attend meetings of the Authority for a period of 6 consecutive months would mean that the Councillor would cease to be a member.

1.2 However Section 85 of the Act also provides that the Councillor shall cease to be a member of the Authority unless the failure to attend was due to some reason approved by the Authority before the expiry of the 6 consecutive month period.

1.3 As the approval has to be prior to the expiry of the 6 month period and as it is currently unknown in light of the pandemic when Council meetings will be reinstated Council is being asked to make this decision now in the event that future meetings may be some way off.

## **2. Quorum & Self-Isolation**

2.1 Whilst this report will allow Councillors the opportunity to remove themselves from attending Committees due to the Covid-19 pandemic and the corresponding advice Councillors must be mindful of the need to ensure that a meeting if called is quorate.

2.2 In the event that any meeting is called (including via Remote Attendance), any Councillor able to attend may wish to do so.

## **3. Electoral Ward Duties**

3.1 The Electoral Ward duties of all Councillors will be undertaken by those remaining Councillor Colleagues within their Electoral Ward or by other Swansea Councillors.

## **4. Financial Implications**

4.1 There are no financial implications associated with this report.

## **5. Legal Implications**

5.1 There are no legal implications associated with this report other than those mentioned within the report.

**Background Papers:** None

### **Appendices:**

Appendix A      Names of all Swansea Councillors

**Appendix A****Names of all Swansea Councillors**

Cyril Anderson	Myles A Langstone
Peter M Black	Andrea S Lewis
June E Burtonshaw	Michael B Lewis
Mark C Child	Richard D Lewis
Jan P Curtice	Wendy G Lewis
Nick J Davies	Clive E Lloyd
A Mike Day	Paul Lloyd
Phil Downing	Irene E Mann
C Ryland Doyle	Penny M Matthews
Mike Durke	Peter N May
Ceri R Evans	Hazel M Morris
V Mandy Evans	David Phillips
William Evans	Cheryl L Philpott
E Wendy Fitzgerald	Sam Pritchard
Robert Francis-Davies	Alyson Pugh
Steve J Gallagher	Jennifer A Raynor
Louise S Gibbard	Christine Richards
Fiona M Gordon	Kelly M Roberts
Kevin M Griffiths	Brigitte J Rowlands
Joe A Hale	Mary Sherwood
David W Helliwell	Paulette B Smith
Terry J Hennegan	Robert V Smith
Chris A Holley	Andrew H Stevens
Paxton R Hood-Williams	Rob C Stewart
Beverly Hopkins	D Gareth Sullivan
David H Hopkins	Mo Sykes
Oliver G James	Gloria J Tanner
Lynda James	Des W W Thomas
Yvonne V Jardine	L Graham Thomas
Jeff W Jones	Mark Thomas
Lyndon R Jones	Will G Thomas
Mary H Jones	Linda J Tyler-Lloyd
Peter Jones	Gordon D Walker
Susan M Jones	Lesley V Walton
Elliott J King	T Mike White
Erika T Kirchner	Vacancy