

Report To:	COUNCIL
Date:	16 SEPTEMBER 2024
Heading:	APPROVAL FOR ABSENCE FOR PERIOD EXCEEDING SIX MONTHS – COUNCILLOR WILL BOSTOCK
Executive Lead Member:	N/A
Ward/s:	SKEGBY
Key Decision:	NO
Subject to Call-In:	NO

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to seek the approval of Council in respect of the absence of Councillor Will Bostock, who has been unable to attend any meetings of the Authority for a period approaching six months due to illness.

Recommendation(s)

1. That the absence of Councillor Will Bostock, due to illness, be approved by the Council for the purposes of Section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972, and that Councillor Bostock's continued absence from meetings of the Authority be extended for a period of approximately 6 months until 15 April 2025 (effective from the 15 October 2024).
2. That the Council's best wishes be forwarded onto Councillor Bostock.

Reasons for Recommendation(s)

Contained within the body of the report.

Alternative Options Considered

Contained within the body of the report.

Detailed Information

Section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972 provides 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 be a Member of the Authority unless the failure is due to some reason approved by the Authority before the expiry of that period.

Councillor Bostock's last recorded attendance was at a meeting of Council on the 15 April 2024, which in normal circumstances would mean that he would be required to attend a meeting of the Authority before the 15 October 2024.

Councillor Bostock has been absent from meetings for some time due to illness. To avoid disqualification, Council is asked to approve Councillor Bostock's absence and to extend his absence for a period of approximately 6 months until 15 April 2025 (effective from the 15 October 2024).

Implications

Corporate Plan:

The recommendations in the report do not have any direct impact upon the Corporate Plan.

Legal:

Section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972 provides 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 be a Member of the Authority unless the failure is due to some reason approved by the Authority before the expiry of that period.

Finance:

There are no financial implications.

Budget Area	Implication
General Fund – Revenue Budget	N/A
General Fund – Capital Programme	N/A
Housing Revenue Account – Revenue Budget	N/A
Housing Revenue Account – Capital Programme	N/A

Risk:

Risk	Mitigation
Failure to seek approval for periods of absence longer than six consecutive months from the date of their last attendance will result in that Councillor ceasing to be a Member of the Authority, unless the failure is due to some reason approved by the Authority before the expiry of that period.	Seek approval of the Council to extend Councillor Bostock's absence until April 15, 2025 (effective from the 15 October 2024).

Human Resources:

There are no HR implications contained in this report.

Environmental/Sustainability:

There are no Environmental/Sustainability implications contained in this report.

Equalities:

There are no Equalities implications contained in this report.

Other Implications:

None

Reason(s) for Urgency

N/A

Reason(s) for Exemption

N/A

Background Papers

Local Government Act, 1972.

Report Author and Contact Officer

Michael Joy
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR - DEMOCRACY
michael.joy@ashfield.gov.uk
01623 457232

Sponsoring Executive Director

Ruth Dennis
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR - GOVERNANCE
ruth.dennis@ashfield.gov.uk