

**CORORATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

**28 AUGUST 2008**

**ATTENDANCE AT MEETINGS**

**SECTION 85, LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**

**RICHARD LONG, DIRECTOR OF LEGAL AND DEMOCRATIC SERVICES**

**PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1. To consider a request from Councillor Ferrier for exemption from attendance at Council meetings as required by Section 85 (1) of the Local Government Act 1972.

**BACKGROUND**

2. Section 85 (1) of the Local Government Act 1972 provides that a Member will cease to be member of the authority if:
  - (a) they fail to attend any meetings of the authority or any other meeting as a representative of the council;
  - (b) they have been absent for a period of six consecutive months from the date of their last attendance;
  - (c) their absence is not due to some reason approved by the authority before the expiry of that period.
3. Members will be aware that due to illness Councillor Ferrier has been unable to attend any Council or Council Committee meetings and has failed to attend a meeting since his last qualifying date of 6 March 2008. In order to ensure that he retains his membership of the Council and provide a period of time to assist with convalescence, a request has been made to extend the period of absence from the Council.
4. Approval by the authority must be before the expiry of the six month period and as the next full meeting of the Council falls after the expiry date of 5 September 2008, Members of this committee are asked to exercise their delegated powers to deal

with any matter, which is not an executive function and that has not been delegated to any other committee of the Council and consider granting a dispensation.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

- (a) That Councillor Ferrier's absence due to illness be regarded as a valid reason for absence from the Council.
- (b) That Members authorise Councillor Ferrier's absence in accordance with Section 85(1) of the Local Government Act 1972 for a further period of six months terminating on 5 March 2009.
- (c) That Members extend their best wishes for a speedy recovery.

## **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Letter from Councillor Ferrier dated 13 August 2008

## **AUTHOR**

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