
Waiver of the Six Month Councillor Attendance Rule

Relevant Portfolio Holder	Councillor Joe Baker
Portfolio Holder Consulted	
Relevant Head of Service	Assistant Director of Legal, Democratic and Procurement Services
Report Author Claire Felton	Job Title: Assistant Director of Legal, Democratic and Procurement Services Contact email: c.felton@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk
Wards Affected	Winyates
Ward Councillor(s) consulted	
Relevant Strategic Purpose(s)	An effective and sustainable Council
Non-Key Decision	
If you have any questions about this report, please contact the report author in advance of the meeting.	

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

Council is asked to RESOLVE that:-

in accordance with Section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972, Council approves Councillor Alan Mason's non-attendance at meetings until 1st May 2025 on the grounds of continued ill health and that the Council's best wishes be conveyed to him.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Councillor Alan Mason, has been unable to attend meetings recently, due to experiencing a period of ill health. The purpose of this report is to propose that Council approve his continuing absence for a period which exceeds six months up to 1st May 2025.
- 2.2 The extension would not prevent Councillor Mason from returning to attending meetings prior to this date, should he feel he is in a position to do so. However, this waiver of the six month rule would provide greater flexibility.

3. OPERATIONAL ISSUES

- 3.1 Councillor Mason last attended a Committee meeting on 29th July 2024. There are not due to be any further Council meetings prior to the expiry of six months from this date, on 29th January 2025. Therefore, a request is being made at this Council meeting for Members to consider approving Councillor Mason's non-attendance until 1st May 2025.
- 3.2 Councillor Mason's term of office as a Councillor representing Winyates ward is due to end in May 2026.
- 3.3 As three Members represent Winyates ward, local residents will continue to be able to access support from a Borough Councillor representative.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 There are no specific financial implications.
- 4.2 Councillor Mason does not hold a position that has a Special Responsibility Allowance (SRA).

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972 states 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 a meeting of the authority, they shall cease to be a member of the Council. An exception applies if their non-attendance has been approved by Council before the expiry of the six-month period.

6. OTHER - IMPLICATIONS

Relevant Strategic Purpose

- 6.1 Management of Council business, including Member support, is conducted in such a way as to deliver an Effective and Sustainable Council.

Climate Change Implications

- 6.2 There are no specific climate change implications.

Equalities and Diversity Implications

REDDITCH BOROUGH COUNCIL

Council
2025

27th January

6.3 Supporting Members in being able to take extended absence due to ill health will have a positive impact on the Council's general equality duty with regards to the protected characteristics under the Equality Act 2010.

7. RISK MANAGEMENT

7.1 No specific risks have been identified.

8. APPENDICES and BACKGROUND PAPERS

None.

9. REPORT SIGN OFF

Department	Name and Job Title	Date
Portfolio Holder	Councillor Joe Baker	
Lead Director / Head of Service	Claire Felton, Assistant Director of Legal, Democratic and Procurement Services.	
Financial Services	Pete Carpenter, Deputy chief Executive and Section 151 Officer.	
Legal Services	Claire Felton, Assistant Director of Legal, Democratic and Procurement Services.	