
Waiver of the Six Month Councillor Attendance Rule

Relevant Portfolio Holder		Councillor Jane Spilsbury, Portfolio Holder for Performance, Engagement and Governance
Portfolio Holder Consulted		Yes
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 Council Priority		Supported Governance
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 7th May 2026 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 7th May 2026.
- 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 meeting, the Annual Council meeting, on 19th May 2025. There are not due to be any further Council meetings prior to the expiry of six months from this date, on 19th November 2025. Therefore, a request is being made at this Council meeting for Members to consider approving Councillor Mason's non-attendance until 7th May 2026.
- 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.
- 5.2 Section 89 (3) of the Local Government Act 1972 states that "where a casual vacancy in any such office occurs within six months before the day on which the councillor whose office is vacant would regularly have retired, an election shall not be held" (unless the total number of vacancies on the Council exceeds one third of the whole number of Members). As Councillor Mason's current term of office is due to end in May 2026, as of 11th November there will be an election held for that seat within six months. Therefore, should Members choose not to approve the resolution detailed in this report, the seat will become vacant but no election will be held for this seat until May 2026.

6. OTHER - IMPLICATIONS

Local Government Reorganisation Implications

- 6.1 There are no implications for Local Government Reorganisation.

Relevant Council Priority

- 6.2 Management of Council business, including Member support, is conducted in such a way as to ensure that supported governance arrangements are in place at the authority.

Climate Change Implications

- 6.3 There are no specific climate change implications.

Equalities and Diversity Implications

- 6.4 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.

REDDITCH BOROUGH COUNCIL

Council
2025

17th November

9. REPORT SIGN OFF

Department	Name and Job Title	Date
Portfolio Holder	Councillor Jane Spilsbury, Portfolio Holder for Performance, Engagement and Governance	3/11/2025
Lead Director / Head of Service	Claire Felton, Assistant Director of Legal, Democratic and Procurement Services.	29/10/25
Financial Services	Deb Goodall, Assistant Director of Finance and Customer Services	30/10/25
Legal Services	Nicola Cummings, Principal Solicitor - Governance	03/11/25