



Annual Council

23 May 2023

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| Title | Waiver Regarding Sickness, Pregnancy and Maternity |
| Report of | Monitoring Officer |
| Wards | All |
| Status | Public |
| Enclosures | None |
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Summary

At Annual Council on 24 May 2022 Council agreed to grant a waiver for all Members of the authority to May 2024 should they be unable to attend a meeting of the Authority for 6 months due to illness, pregnancy or maternity. Council is asked if they wish to extend this dispensation for a further year to the end of May 2024.

Recommendation

Council agree a waiver for all members of the Authority until the end of May 2024 should they be unable to attend a meeting of the Authority for 6 months due to illness, pregnancy or maternity.

1. WHY THIS REPORT IS NEEDED

- 1.1. Council agreed a waiver (at Annual Council on 24th May 2022) for all Members of the authority to the end of May 2023 should they be unable to attend a meeting of the Authority for 6 months due to illness pregnancy or maternity. Council is asked if they wish to extend this waiver for a further year to the end of May 2024.
- 1.3. Section 85(1) of the Local Government Act 1972 states that “if a member of a Local Authority fails, throughout a period of 6 consecutive months from the

date of their last attendance, to attend any meeting of the Authority they will, unless the failure was due to some good reason approved by the Authority before the expiry of that period, cease to be a member of the Authority.”

- 1.4. Attendance can be at any committee or sub-committee, or any joint committee, joint board or other body where the functions of the Authority are discharged or who were appointed to advise the Authority on any matter relating to the discharge of their functions.

2. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 The waiver from the 6-month rule means that members who are taken ill or cannot attend meeting due to pregnancy or maternity will not fall foul of the 6-month rule.

3. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND NOT RECOMMENDED

- 3.1 There is an option not to continue to agree to this waiver.

4. POST DECISION IMPLEMENTATION

- 4.1 N/A.

5. IMPLICATIONS OF DECISION

5.1 Corporate Priorities and Performance

- 5.1.1 Barnet Council is responsible for ensuring that its business is conducted in accordance with the law and proper standards, and that public money is safeguarded, properly accounted for, and used economically, efficiently and effectively. By keeping the Constitution and member issues under review, it ensures that the framework in which the Council is governed supports the delivery of corporate priorities and performance.

5.2 Resources (Finance & Value for Money, Procurement, Staffing, IT, Property, Sustainability)

- 5.2.1 None.

5.3 Legal and Constitutional References

- 5.3.1 Section 85(1) of the Local Government Act 1972 states that “if a member of a Local Authority fails, throughout a period of 6 consecutive months from the date of their last attendance, to attend any meeting of the Authority they will, unless the failure was due to some good reason approved by the Authority before the expiry of that period, cease to be a member of the Authority.”

5.4 Risk Management

- 5.4.1 The process of managing changes to the constitution through Council ensures that the proposals are developed through Member participation and

consideration.

5.5 Equalities and Diversity

5.5.1 The decision-making processes of the Council, as enshrined within the Constitution, needs to be transparent and accessible to all sectors of the community.

5.6 Consultation and Engagement

5.6.1 None in context of this decision

6. BACKGROUND PAPERS

6.1 None