

Notification of Continuation of Dispensation for Councillor John V Chainey

Lead Officer: Ian Clarke, Assistant Director (Legal and Corporate Services)
Contact Details: ian.clarke@southsomerset.gov.uk or (01935) 462184

1. Purpose of the Report

1.1. This report is to notify Members of a delegated decision taken by the Chief Executive, having obtained the agreement of the Group Leaders, to extend the dispensation for a Councillor from attending Council meetings due to on-going ill health over a twelve month period.

2. Public Interest

2.1 If a Councillor fails, or is unable for certain reasons, to attend any meeting of the Council over a six month period, then the Council can approve a dispensation from attending meetings for that Councillor.

3. Recommendations

3.1. Council is asked to:-

(1) note that the Chief Executive, having obtained the agreement of all of the Group Leaders, has approved a further dispensation for Councillor John V Chainey from attending meetings of the Council by reason of illness for a six month period commencing 3rd March 2015, in order to avoid Councillor Chainey ceasing to be a member of the authority under Section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972.

(2) note that the dispensation will last until 7th May 2015 which will be the re-election of all District Councillors.

4. Background

4.1 Members will recall that they agreed a dispensation for Councillor John Chainey at Council on 16th January 2014 and this was renewed on 17th July 2014.

4.2. Members will be aware of Councillor Chainey's on-going inability to attend Council meetings on the grounds of ill-health. His last attendance at a qualifying meeting under Section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972 was the Area South Committee meeting on the 3rd September 2014. Section 85 states that if a Member fails over a period of six consecutive months from the date of his last attendance to attend any meeting of the Authority he shall, unless the failure was due to some reason approved by the Authority before the expiry of that period, cease to be a Member of the Authority.

4.3. Qualifying meetings include attendance as a Member at a meeting of any Committee or Sub-Committee of the Authority or at a meeting of any Joint Committee, Joint Board or other body discharging functions of the Authority. It also includes attendance as a representative of the Authority at a meeting of, for example, an outside body.

4.4. The Chief Executive has obtained the agreement of all of the Group Leaders to extend the dispensation to 7th May 2015. This is the date of the re-election of all District Councillors.

5. Consultation

5.1 These proposals have been notified to each of the political group leaders.

6. Financial Implications

6.1 None.

7. Background papers

7.1 Reports to Council: 16th January 2014 and 17th July 2014

7.2 Section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972.