

ANNUAL ASSEMBLY

18 MAY 2011

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

This report is submitted under Agenda Item 18. The Chair will be asked to decide if it can be considered at the meeting under the provisions of Section 100B (4) (b) of the Local Government Act 1972 as a matter of urgency as it is necessary for the Assembly to consider the matter before its next scheduled meeting.

Title: Councillor Louise Couling – Non attendance at designated meetings		For Decision
Summary: <p>Councillor Couling has not attended a designated Council meeting since the Assembly on 12 January 2011.</p> <p>Section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972 provides that if a Member fails throughout a period of six consecutive calendar months from the date of their last attendance to attend any meeting of the authority, they cease to be a Member of the Council, unless the failure was due to some reason approved by the Assembly before the expiration of the period. This provision is reflected in Article 1 of Part B-paragraph 21 of the Council's Constitution.</p> <p>Councillor Couling has experienced poor health including a period of hospitalisation and the latest diagnosis is that she will remain incapacitated for the foreseeable future. On that basis Democratic Services have been advised that Councillor Couling will not be well enough to attend either this or the Ceremonial Council meeting on Friday, those being her only qualifying meetings. She will therefore cease to be a Member of the Council after 13 July 2011, unless a dispensation is granted by the Assembly before the expiry of that date, hence the reason for tabling a report this evening.</p> <p>Wards Affected: Goresbrook</p>		
Recommendation(s) The Assembly is asked whether it wishes to grant Councillor Couling a dispensation for a period of a further four months on the basis of reviewing the situation, and that subject to her not being able to attend a qualifying meeting in the intervening period and subject to her state of health at that time, to present a further report to the Assembly scheduled for 14 September 2011.		
Reason(s) To accord with legislative requirements.		
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Background Papers Used in the Preparation of the Report:

Local Government Act 1972