

RESOLUTION TO EXTEND 6 MONTH RULE – SECTION 85 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

To: Council

Date: 12th July 2018

Author: Democratic Services Manager

[T50]

1.0 PURPOSE

1.1 To consider the extension of the 6 month rule for Councillor Sue Austen, having regard to the circumstances of her absence from meetings.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 That Council approves an extension of the 6 month rule for Councillor Sue Austen, on ill-health grounds, for an additional 6 month period, until the 22 February 2019, and expresses its best wishes to her for a speedy recovery.

3.0 BACKGROUND/OPTIONS

3.1 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 his last attendance to attend any meeting of the authority, he shall, 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.” Attendance can be at any committee or sub-committee, or at 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.

3.2 Councillor Sue Austen has been unable to attend meetings recently on ill-health grounds. The last meeting she attended was the Council meeting on 22 February 2018. Therefore, the 6 month period will expire on 22 August 2018, before the next scheduled Council meeting. Since that meeting Councillor Austen has been in hospital with a serious illness and is under ongoing medical care. Under the circumstances, it is requested that Council approve an extension of the 6 month rule for Councillor Austen on ill-health grounds and that Council’s best wishes be conveyed to Councillor Austen for a speedy recovery.

3.3 It is recommended that Council grant an extension for an additional six months. This would not prevent Councillor Austen from returning to meetings at any time, if her health allowed, but would give flexibility.

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report.

<u>Background Documents</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Contact Officer</u>
None	Room 214B The Grange, Ely	Tracy Couper –Democratic Services Manager (01353) 616278 E-mail: tracy.couper@eastcambs.gov.uk