

**REQUESTS FOR EXTENSIONS OF NON-ATTENDANCE
- COUNCILLORS GRUNDY AND WRIGHT**

Responsible Cabinet Member - Councillor Stephen Harker. Leader

Responsible Director - Paul Wildsmith, Managing Director

SUMMARY REPORT

Purpose of the Report

1. To consider applications, on behalf of Councillors Grundy and Wright, for extensions to the six-month period of their non-attendance at meetings due to ill health.

Summary

2. 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/her last attendance, to attend any meeting of the authority, he/she 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.
3. Councillors Grundy and Wright have not attended any Council or Committee meetings since 27 September 2018, consequently under the above provisions they will cease to be Members of the Council on 26 March 2019 unless the Council approves the reason for the failure to attend before that date.

Recommendation

4. Members are asked to consider the options in paragraph 10 below.

Reason

5. To ensure compliance under Section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972.

**Paul Wildsmith
Managing Director**

Background Papers

Requests from Leaders of the Labour Group and the Independent Group on 11 February 2019

Linda Todd: Extension 5803

S17 Crime and Disorder	There are no issues in relation to Crime and Disorder
Health and Well Being	There are no issues in relation to Health and Wellbeing
Carbon Impact	There are no issues in relation to Carbon Impact
Diversity	There are no issues relating to Diversity which this report needs to address
Wards Affected	Brinkburn and Faverdale and Park East Wards
Groups Affected	There is no impact on any particular group.
Budget and Policy Framework	This report does not recommend any change to the Budget or Policy Framework
Key Decision	This is not a key decision
Urgent Decision	This is not an urgent decision
One Darlington: Perfectly Placed	This report does not adversely impact on the Strategy
Efficiency	This report does not have any direct impact on efficiency
Impact on Looked After Children and Care Leavers	This report has no impact on Looked After Children or Care Leavers

MAIN REPORT

Information and Analysis

6. 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/her last attendance, to attend any meeting of the authority, he/she 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.
7. Councillors Grundy and Wright have not attended any Council or Committee meetings since 27 September, 2018 due to ill health, consequently under the above provisions they will cease to be a Member of the Council on 26 March 2019 unless the Council approves the reason for the failure to attend before that date.

Previous Requests to Council

8. Members may recall that similar applications to Council have been approved by Council. Each time a request has been approved Council has extended each of the Councillors' periods of non-attendance at meetings by a further six months.
9. Members are reminded that in the case of Councillors Grundy and Wright it will not be possible to extend the period on non-attendance due to elections being held on 2 May 2019.

Options

10. Council has the following options :-

- (a) Do not agree to the request and, unless Councillors Grundy and Wright attend a meeting prior to 26 March 2019 they will cease to be a Member of the Council; or
- (b) Agree to the request and approve the failure to attend by reason of illness until Councillors Grundy and Wright's terms of office ends in May 2019.