



## Committee report

Committee	<b>FULL COUNCIL</b>
Date	<b>24 JULY 2019</b>
Title	<b>MEMBER'S ABSENCE FROM COUNCIL MEETINGS</b>
Report of	<b>ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE SERVICES AND MONITORING OFFICER</b>

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### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

#### **Summary**

1. Councillor Murwill has been unwell and approval is sought for his absence from meetings of the council for up to six months from the 12 September 2019 on the grounds of his ill health.
2. This report has not appeared on the Forward Plan in advance of publication and in accordance with the constitution the views of the Chair of Scrutiny have been sought. The Chair of Scrutiny has confirmed that he is content for the report to be considered and that in not including it on the forward plan, the council has balanced the needs of the council's constitutional processes with the desirability of handling Cllr Murwill's personal situation with appropriate sensitivity.

### BACKGROUND

3. The Local Government Act 1972 expressly provides that where a council Member fails to attend any meeting of the council for 6 consecutive months from the date of their last attendance, subject to certain exceptions, they cease to be a member of the authority unless failure was due to some reason approved by the Council before the expiry of that period.
4. Councillor Michael Murwill Member for Brading, St Helens and Bembridge, last attended a council meeting the 13 March 2019 (Extraordinary Full Council). Unfortunately, Cllr Murwill has been unwell and is not currently well enough to return to council meetings. If the extension is approved this would not prevent Councillor Murwill from returning to meetings at any time, if his health allows.

### FINANCIAL / BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

5. There are no specific budget implications that arise out of this decision.

## LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

6. Section 85 Local Government Act 1972 provides “*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 reason approved by the authority before the expiry of that period, cease to be a member of the authority*”.

## OPTIONS

7. (a) That Councillor Murwill’s absence from meetings of the Council for up to six months from the 12 September 2019 be approved on the grounds of his ill health.
- (b) That Councillor Murwill’s absence from meetings of the Council for up to six months from the 12 September 2019 are not approved.

## RECOMMENDATION

8. (a) That Councillor Murwill’s absence from meetings of the Council for up to six months from the 12 September 2019 be approved on the grounds of his ill health

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