

## **Enc \*) Waiver of six-month councillor attendance rule (section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972)**

### **Legal position**

Section 85 (1) of the Local Government Act 1972 requires a member of a Local Authority to attend at least one meeting of that Authority within a six-month consecutive period.

"If a member of a local authority fails throughout a period of six consecutive months from the date of *their* last attendance to attend any meeting of the authority, *they* 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."

### **Report**

The last meeting attended by Cllr Liam Lavery was 11<sup>th</sup> October 2022. The Council can only consider approval of any reasons for non-attendance before the end of the relevant six-month period, which will be 11<sup>th</sup> April 2023.

Cllr Liam Lavery has confirmed that he may not be able to future Council meetings, due to ill health, but that on-going recovery is in place. A request has been submitted for a leave of absence, from 14<sup>th</sup> March 2023.

In receiving this request for a leave of absence, the Council is asked to consider approval of the reason for absence from 14<sup>th</sup> March, and to extend the six-month rule.

If the Council does not approve the reason for non-attendance and therefore does not agree to extend the non-attendance period, Cllr Liam Lavery will cease to be a member of Ashington Town Council after 11<sup>th</sup> April 2023.

### **Proposed Motion**

To agree that, in accordance with Section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972, Cllr Liam Lavery's non-attendance at meetings of the Council be approved for a period of 6-months on grounds of ill-health and recovery.