

## **COUNCIL – 21ST JANUARY 2019**

### **Report of the Chief Executive**

#### **ITEM 6.5 AUTHORISATION OF ABSENCE – COUNCILLOR DAVID GASKELL**

##### Purpose of Report

To enable the Council to consider authorising Councillor David Gaskell's absence from meetings in accordance with section 85(1) of the Local Government Act 1972.

##### Recommendation

That Councillor David Gaskell's absence from meetings since the Licensing Committee meeting on 7th August 2018 be authorised due to his ill health.

##### Reason

To enable Councillor Gaskell's absence to be authorised by the Council prior to the end of the 6-month period since he was last able to attend a meeting as required by section 85(1) of the Local Government Act 1972.

##### Policy Justification and Previous Decisions

Councillor David Gaskell has been unwell for an extended period of time. During that period he has been unable to attend Council and committee meetings. Section 85(1) of the Local Government Act 1972 states that should a councillor not attend meetings for a period of 6 months he or she would cease to be a councillor unless his or her absence is authorised by the Council prior to the end of that 6-month period.

The 6-month period since Councillor Gaskell was last able to attend a meeting would be reached on 7th February 2019, and this is the last Council meeting before that date.

##### Implementation Timetable including Future Decisions and Scrutiny

Should the Council decide to authorise a councillor's absence the matter would normally be referred back to the Council after a further 6 months if the councillor does not attend any meetings in that period. This would not be necessary on this occasion as the Council term will have ended before the end of a further period of 6 months.

## Report Implications

### *Financial Implications*

There are no financial implications associated with this decision.

### *Risk Management*

No specific risks have been identified in connection with this report.

Background Papers: None

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