

DECISION ITEM

REPORT OF	MEETING	DATE	ITEM NO
RESOURCES DIRECTORATE	COUNCIL	22 OCTOBER 2018	7
COUNCILLOR DISPENSATION			

PUBLIC ITEM

This item is for consideration in the public part of the meeting.

SUMMARY

Councillor Keith Beckett is in ill health which makes attendance at meetings of committees and the council difficult at times. The report asks the council to consider approving Councillor Beckett's ill health as a reason for his non-attendance at meetings. This would prevent section 85 of the Local Government Act 1985 bringing his term of office to an end after six months of non-attendance should this arise.

RECOMMENDATION

1. Approve Councillor Keith Beckett's ill health as a reason for his non-attendance at meetings for the purposes of section 85(1) of the Local Government Act 1972.

SUMMARY OF PREVIOUS DECISIONS

None

CORPORATE PRIORITIES

Spending your money in the most efficient way to achieve excellent services (Value for Money)	✓
Delivering the services that customers expect of an excellent council (Clean and Green)	✓
Working with all partners (Vibrant Economy)	✓
To make sure Fylde continues to be one of the most desirable places to live (A Great Place to Live)	✓
Promoting Fylde as a great destination to visit (A Great Place to Visit)	✓

REPORT

1. Section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972 provides 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 reason approved by the authority before the expiry of that period, cease to be a member of the authority*'.
2. Councillor Keith Beckett was elected as a councillor for Kirkham North on 3 May 2007. He had also previously served as a councillor from 5 May 1983 to 8 May 1986.

3. Councillor Beckett last attended a meeting of full Council on 9 May 2018. Since then he has been suffering from ill health which makes attendance at meetings of committees and the council difficult.
4. In the circumstances the council is asked, for the purposes of section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972, to approve Councillor Beckett's ill health as a reason for his non-attendance at meetings of the authority. This would mean that even if Councillor Beckett was unable to attend future meetings section 85 would not bring his term of office to an end, so long as his non-attendance was due to his current ill health.

IMPLICATIONS	
Finance	There are no financial implications arising from this report.
Legal	Section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972, where it has effect, ends the term of office of a councillor automatically, without any decision of the council being necessary.
Community Safety	None arising from this report.
Human Rights and Equalities	The council is subject to the Public Sector Equality Duty set out in the Equality Act 2010. However, this duty does not repeal or override the clear statutory position set out in section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972.
Sustainability and Environmental Impact	None arising from this report.
Health & Safety and Risk Management	None arising from this report.

LEAD AUTHOR	CONTACT DETAILS	DATE
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BACKGROUND PAPERS		
Name of document	Date	Where available for inspection
None		