

Agenda Item _____

To approve temporary suspension of the provisions of S85 of the Local Government Act 1972

Summary

For Council to agree to suspend the provisions of S85 of the Local Government Act 1972 in light of the Covid 19 pandemic

Background

Section 85 (1) 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 their last attendance, to attend any meeting of the Authority they will, unless the failure was due to some good reason approved by the Authority before the expiry of that period, cease to be a member of the Authority”.

Not all of our Councillors have the necessary equipment to enable them to join a virtual meeting. With the handover of documents coinciding with the start of the lockdown, the meeting schedule has been badly disrupted.

Legal

The Local Government Act 1972, Section 85.

Details

To request council approval to suspend this provision in relation to each and every member of the council who is unable to attend any meeting of the council during the relevant period due to the following circumstances:

Has tested positive for, or has symptoms of COVID-19.

Is quarantining, shielding or self-isolating.

Is unable to participate in the format that the meeting is being held.

The meeting is cancelled or postponed due to the impact of COVID-19.

This suspension to be reviewed at the Annual Council Meeting in 2021.

Budget Implications

None

Risk Management Implications

None

Recommendation

That the Council agree to this suspension.