

BOROUGH OF KETTERING

Committee	COUNCIL	Item 8	Page 1 of 2
Report Originator	Martin Hammond	<i>Fwd Plan Ref No:</i>	
Wards Affected	Desborough St Giles	24 th July 2019	
Title	DISPENSATION FOR NON-ATTENDANCE AT MEETINGS		

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To seek the Council's approval to give a dispensation for non-attendance at meetings to Cllr David Soans in view of his continuing ill health.

2. INFORMATION

2.1. 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 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 date of that period, cease to be a member of that authority”

2.2 This provision therefore permits the Council to give a dispensation to any member whom the Council believes has good reason for their absence.

2.3 Cllr David Soans has suffered from significant ill health in recent times, and is unlikely to make an early recovery. His last attendance at a meeting was on the 3rd April 2019 (the A6 Towns Forum) and therefore he will need to attend another meeting before the 3rd September if he is not to be automatically disqualified under the 1972 Act.

2.4 Cllr Soans has remained in touch with his group leader and has advised that he needs a period of prolonged absence to aid his recovery. It is therefore proposed that the Council agrees a dispensation for him which extends to the Annual Council meeting in May 2020.

2.5. Cllr Soans will continue to be eligible for the payment of basic allowance within the members allowance scheme.

BOROUGH OF KETTERING

Committee	COUNCIL	Item 8	Page 2 of 2
-----------	----------------	-----------	----------------

3. RECOMMENDATION

That:

- i) For the purposes of Section 85(1) of the Local Government Act 1972, the reason as set out in the report for Cllr Soans' continued absence from meetings be approved; and
- ii) This approval lasts until the Annual Council meeting of 2020.

Background Papers:

None

Previous Reports/Minutes:

None

Date: 1st July 2019
Contact Officers: Martin Hammond.