



Report of:	Meeting	Date
Councillor David Henderson, Leader of the Council and Garry Payne, Chief Executive	Council	2 December 2021

Dispensation for non-attendance at council meetings: Councillor Rita Amos

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 To approve a dispensation to enable Councillor Rita Amos to continue to act as a councillor for a specified period of time without having to attend meetings.

2. Outcomes

- 2.1 Councillor Rita Amos will be able to continue as a councillor.

3. Recommendation

- 3.1 That Councillor Rita Amos be granted dispensation to continue to act as a councillor without attending meetings until the Annual Meeting of Council on 12 May 2022.

4. Background

- 4.1 Members will be aware that Councillor Rita Amos has suffered from ill health in recent months and has been unable to attend any meeting since a meeting of the Planning Committee on 7 July 2021. In order to continue to be a councillor she will need to be granted dispensation at this meeting in order to avoid breaching the provisions of Section 85 (1) of the Local Government Act 1972. This section 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 that Authority."

5. Key issues and proposals

- 5.1** Whilst owing to the nature of her health problems, Councillor Rita Amos has not been able to attend meetings in recent months, she has been able to respond to enquiries from local residents and to deal with other council business by email and telephone. She has also, where necessary, been able to refer specific actions to the other Jubilee Ward councillor (Councillor Ian Amos) and at least one other local councillor who has offered support and assisted when requested to do so.
- 5.2** It is therefore proposed that the Council accepts that there have been valid reasons for her non-attendance at meetings and passes the necessary resolution to grant her dispensation to continue as a councillor until 12 May 2022. Hopefully she will be able to attend meetings again before then but, if she has not been able to do so, a further report will be submitted to the Annual Council meeting on 12 May 2022.

Financial and legal implications	
Finance	Councillor Rita Amos will continue to be eligible to receive Basic Allowance payments in accordance with the Council's Members Allowance Scheme, for which there is already budget provision.
Legal	Referred to in paragraph 4.1.

Other risks/implications: checklist

If there are significant implications arising from this report on any issues marked with a ✓ below, the report author will have consulted with the appropriate specialist officers on those implications and addressed them in the body of the report. There are no significant implications arising directly from this report, for those issues marked with a x.

risks/implications	✓ / x
community safety	x
equality and diversity	x
sustainability	x
health and safety	x

risks/implications	✓ / x
asset management	x
climate change	x
ICT	x
data protection	x

Processing Personal Data

In addition to considering data protection along with the other risks/ implications, the report author will need to decide if a 'privacy impact assessment (PIA)' is also required. If the decision(s) recommended in this report will result in the collection and processing of personal data for the first time (i.e. purchase of a new system, a new working arrangement with a third party) a PIA will need to have been completed and signed off by Data Protection Officer before the decision is taken in compliance with the Data Protection Act 2018.

report author	telephone no.	email	date
Peter Foulsham	01253 887606	Peter.foulsham@wyre.gov.uk	28 October 2021

List of background papers:		
name of document	date	where available for inspection
None.		

List of appendices

None.