

Report of:	Meeting	Date	Item no.
The Leader of the Council (Cllr David Henderson) and the Chief Executive (Garry Payne)	Council	10 May 2018	9

<p align="center">Dispensation for non-attendance at council meetings: Councillor Balmain</p>

1. Purpose of report

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

2. Outcomes

- 2.1 Cllr Balmain will be able to continue as a Councillor.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1 That Councillor Balmain be granted a dispensation to continue to act as a Councillor without attending meetings until 30 October 2018.

4. Background

- 4.1 Members will be aware that Councillor Balmain has suffered from various health problems since having a heart operation on 28 June 2017. He attended the Council meeting on 7 December and had hoped to be able to attend meetings more regularly from that date. Unfortunately, he has not been able to do so and he has said that it is unlikely that he will be able to attend this Council meeting. In order to continue to be a councillor, he will need to be granted a dispensation at this meeting to avoid breaching the provisions of Section 85 (1) of the Local Government Act 1972.

5. Key issues and proposals

- 5.1** Whilst, because of the nature of his health problems, Cllr Balmain has not, so far, been able to attend meetings, he has been able to respond to enquiries from local constituents and to deal with other Council business by e-mail. He has also, when necessary, been able to discuss local issues or refer specific actions to the other Garstang Ward Members (Cllr Lady Atkins and Cllr Collinson). These arrangements will continue until Cllr Balmain is able to attend meetings again on a regular basis, which it is hoped will be soon.
- 5.2** It is therefore proposed that the Council accepts that there are valid reasons for his non-attendance at meetings and passes the necessary resolution to grant him dispensation to continue as a Councillor until 30 October 2018. Hopefully, he will be able to attend meetings again before then but, if he has not been able to do so, a further report will be submitted to the Council meeting on 18 October 2018.

Financial and legal implications	
Finance	Councillor Balmain will continue to be eligible to receive Basic Allowance payments in accordance with the Council's Members Allowance Scheme, for which there is 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
data protection	x

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

List of appendices

None.

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