

When telephoning, please ask for : Kath Marriott
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Date: 20 January 2020



Dear Cllr Bailey,

Councillor Attendance

I am required in accordance with the Council's constitution to refer to the committee the failure of a councillor to attend any meeting during a period of three months. The committee's role is to consider whether a suspension of the payment of allowances under the councillors' allowance scheme should be made due to the nonattendance of a councillor at meetings within the period. In making this assessment the committee should consider the reasons for nonattendance. The committee having considered the relevant circumstances of nonattendance is able to approve the councillor's absence without affecting his/her allowance.

Councillors Beardsall and Murray have not attended a formal Council meeting for the period exceeding three months (last attendance at Council on 19 September 2019). I have discussed the nonattendance with both councillors and write to advise the committee of the reasons provided to me.

Councillor Beardsall has written to me requesting that his attendance from Council meetings be excused to 1 March 2020 due to personal family circumstances which he wishes to remain confidential. He has shared the reasons with me, and whilst it is a matter for consideration of the committee, I am satisfied that the reasons provided justify a continuation of the allowance.

Councillor Murray is currently undergoing treatment which has impacted on her ability to attend meetings. During the treatment, on good days she has attended events but has not attended formal council meetings. Having discussed the reasons with her, and whilst it is a matter for consideration of the committee, I am satisfied that the reasons provided justify a continuation of the allowance.

For reference and as a reminder, where a councillor is unable to attend any meeting of the authority for a period of 6 consecutive months following the date of their last attendance, they automatically cease to be a member of the authority, unless Council has resolved to approve a reason for an extended absence.

I would be grateful for the committee's consideration of the circumstances surrounding the nonattendance of these councillors in determining the ongoing payment of expenses, and I reiterate that I support the continuation of the payment in both cases.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. S. Marriott'.

Kath Marriott
Chief Executive

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each month
9am - 1pm

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