

**OFFICER REPORT TO COUNCIL****APPROVAL OF COUNTY COUNCILLOR ABSENCE****KEY ISSUE/DECISION:**

The purpose of this report is to request that the County Council considers whether to agree that County Councillor Clare Curran may continue to be absent from Council meetings by reason of ill health.

BACKGROUND:

Under section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972, a Member ceases to hold that office if he/she has not attended a meeting for a period of six consecutive months, unless the failure to attend is due to a reason approved by the authority during that six months. The last meeting that Clare Curran attended was a meeting of the Cabinet in May and she has unfortunately not been able to attend any formal meetings since then while she receives treatment for a serious health condition.

For that reason the County Council is requested to agree that she may continue to be absent from meetings while maintaining membership of the Council during her period of ill health. This decision will be reviewed at the County Council AGM in May 2016.

The Leader has appointed an additional Cabinet Associate to provide support to the Cabinet Team during Clare Curran's absence. The appointment is detailed in the Updates to the Constitution report at item 14 on the agenda for this meeting.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That Mrs Clare Curran may continue to be absent from meetings until May 2016 by reason of ill health. The Council looks forward to welcoming her back in due course.

Lead/Contact Officers:

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Sources/background papers:

None

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