

Arun District Council

REPORT TO:	Full Council – 19 March 2025
SUBJECT:	Local Government Act 1972 Section 85(1) – Approval of Absence
LEAD OFFICER:	Daniel Bainbridge, Group Head of Law and Governance
LEAD MEMBER:	Councillor Martin Lury, Leader of the Council
WARDS:	All
CORPORATE PRIORITY / POLICY CONTEXT / CORPORATE VISION: None specifically in the context of this report.	
DIRECTORATE POLICY CONTEXT: None specifically in the context of this report.	
FINANCIAL SUMMARY: There are no financial implications associated with this report.	

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 For Full Council to approve a reason for the non-attendance of Councillor Joan English and to approve an extended period of absence from meetings.

2. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that in the event that Councillor Joan English is unable to attend a meeting of the authority before 10 April 2025, approval is given to an extended period of absence for the period until and including 12 November 2025.

3. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 3.1 Councillor English has been unable to attend a meeting of the Council in recent months due to personal circumstances. Councillor English attended a meeting of the Corporate Support Committee held on 10 October 2024, which is the last date on which she attended a meeting related to the discharge of the Council's functions.

4. DETAIL

- 4.1 Due to the reason set out at paragraph 3.1 of this report, Councillor English has been unable to attend a meeting of the Council since 10 October 2024. Under Section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972, if a Councillor does not attend any relevant meeting for a period of six months, they automatically cease to be a member of the Council unless before the expiry of that period the authority has approved the reason for that absence.

4.2 The Council is required to consider this matter prior to the expiry of the six-month period on 10 April 2025.

4.3 It is not currently possible at this stage to say whether Councillor English will be able to attend any meetings in person within the near future and so Full Council is asked to agree that if she is unable for the reasons set out in paragraph 3.1 to attend another meeting between now and 10 April 2025, such absence will be authorised.

5. CONSULTATION

5.1 Group Leaders have been made aware of the report ahead of its publication.

6. OPTIONS / ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

6.1 It is the responsibility of the Council to consider this matter and agree the reason for absence.

7. COMMENTS BY THE GROUP HEAD OF FINANCE/SECTION 151 OFFICER

7.1 There are no financial implications associated with this report.

8. RISK ASSESSMENT CONSIDERATIONS

8.1 There are no such implications.

9. COMMENTS OF THE GROUP HEAD OF LAW AND GOVERNANCE & MONITORING OFFICER

9.1 Section 85(1) of the Local Government Act 1972 (LGA) prescribes: "...if a member of a local authority fails throughout a period of six consecutive months from the date 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 of that period, cease to be a member of the authority."

10. HUMAN RESOURCES IMPACT

10.1 Councillor English and her Group Leader have been appraised of the position detailed in this report.

11. HEALTH & SAFETY IMPACT

11.1 There are no such implications.

12. PROPERTY & ESTATES IMPACT

12.1 There are no such implications.

13. EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA) / SOCIAL VALUE

13.1 There are no such implications.

14. CLIMATE CHANGE & ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT/SOCIAL VALUE

14.1 There are no such implications.

15. CRIME AND DISORDER REDUCTION IMPACT

15.1 There are no such implications.

16. HUMAN RIGHTS IMPACT

16.1 There are no such implications.

17. FREEDOM OF INFORMATION / DATA PROTECTION CONSIDERATIONS

17.1 There are no such implications.

CONTACT OFFICER:

Name: Daniel Bainbridge

Job Title: Group Head of Law and Governance

Contact Number: 01903 737607

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS:

None

Section 85, Local Government Act 1972

[Local Government Act 1972](#)