



**REPORT of
MONITORING OFFICER**

**to
COUNCIL
22 FEBRUARY 2023**

APPROVAL OF ABSENCE RELATING TO MEMBER

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To consider whether the absence of Councillor Brian S Beale MBE should be approved if he is absent for six months from Council meetings.

2. RECOMMENDATION

That the Council considers whether the absence of Councillor Brian Beale MBE should be approved so that he continues in office to the forthcoming May elections despite being absent from Council meetings more than six consecutive months.

3. SUMMARY OF KEY ISSUES

- 3.1 The Local Government Act 1972 section 85 states:

“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.”

- 3.2 Councillor Beale attended a Council meeting on 8 September 2022 and has been unable to attend since due unavoidable personal circumstances. Should Councillor Beale not attend a Council or Committee meeting by 7 March 2023 he will automatically lose his seat and the Southminster ward would lose one of its representatives up to the May election.

4. CONCLUSION

- 4.1 The Council has the discretion to approve Councillor Beale’s absence.

5. IMPACT ON STRATEGIC THEMES

- 5.1 None.

6. IMPLICATIONS

- (i) **Impact on Customers** – Could be a weakening of democratic representation for Southminster ward.
- (ii) **Impact on Equalities** – None.
- (iii) **Impact on Risk** – None.
- (iv) **Impact on Resources (financial)** – None.
- (v) **Impact on Resources (human)** – None.
- (vi) **Impact on the Environment** – None.
- (vii) **Impact on Strengthening Communities** – None.

Background Papers: None.

Enquiries to: Simon Quelch, Monitoring Officer.