

THE LONDON BOROUGH OF CAMDEN	WARDS: All
REPORT TITLE: Waiver of Six Month Councillor Attendance Rule	
REPORT OF: Borough Solicitor	
FOR SUBMISSION TO: Council	DATE: 22 nd July 2024
<p>SUMMARY OF REPORT: Members are asked to agree an extension to the period of absence of a Member on grounds of ill health.</p> <p>Local Government Act 1972 – Access to Information There were no documents used in the preparation of this report which require listing.</p> <p>Contact Officer: Vicky Wemyss-Cooke Committee Services Town Hall London WC1H 9JE Tel: 020 7974 5726 Email: vicky.wemyss-cooke@camden.gov.uk</p>	
<p>RECOMMENDATION:</p> <p>(i) In accordance with Section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972, to agree to Councillor Linda Chung’s non-attendance at meetings up until the end of 2024 on grounds of ill health; and</p> <p>(ii) To note that Councillor Linda Chung will continue to receive both her basic allowance and her special responsibility allowance during her absence.</p>	

Signed by:

Andrew Maughan
Borough Solicitor

Date: 10th July 2024

1. Background

- 1.1 Section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972 states that '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'.
- 1.2 Qualifying meetings include full Council, any committee or sub-committee of the authority, or any meeting of a joint committee, joint body or other body by whom for the time being any functions of the authority are being discharged, or who were appointed to advise the authority on any matter relating to the discharge of their functions.
- 1.3 The Council may approve an extension of the period of absence beyond six months provided that the extension is granted before the six month period of absence has expired.

2. Current Situation

- 2.1 Councillor Linda Chung last attended a qualifying meeting on 4th March 2024. Shortly after that she became extremely unwell, including a period of hospitalisation, and has been unable to attend any meetings since.
- 2.2 Whilst Councillor Chung is recovering, it is currently unclear if she will be in a position to attend a qualifying meeting before the six month period expires on 3rd September 2024, and so it is considered expedient to seek agreement from the Council to an extension of the six month period in case it is needed.
- 2.3 The extension would not prevent Councillor Chung from returning to meetings at any time, but would give flexibility, and this Council meeting presents the last opportunity to agree such an extension prior to the expiration of the six months.
- 2.4 Under the terms of the Members' Allowance Scheme, Councillor Chung will continue to receive both her basic allowance and her special responsibility allowance as Chair of the Resources and Corporate Performance Scrutiny Committee during her period of absence.

2. Legal Comments of the Borough Solicitor

- 2.1. This is a report of the Borough Solicitor and there are no further legal comments.

3. Finance Comments of the Executive Director Corporate Services

- 3.1. The Executive Director Corporate Services has no comments.

4. Environmental Implications

4.1 There are no environmental implications.

REPORT ENDS