

<b>THE LONDON BOROUGH OF CAMDEN</b>		<b>WARDS:</b> All
<b>REPORT TITLE:</b> Waiver of Six Month Councillor Attendance Rule for a Member on Maternity Leave		
<b>REPORT OF:</b> Borough Solicitor		
<b>FOR SUBMISSION TO:</b> Council		<b>DATE:</b> 17 <sup>th</sup> November 2025
<p><b>SUMMARY OF REPORT:</b> Members are asked to agree an extension to the period of absence of a Member on maternity leave.</p> <p><b>Local Government Act 1972 – Access to Information</b> There were no documents used in the preparation of this report which require listing.</p> <p><b>Contact Officer:</b> Vicky Wemyss-Cooke Democratic Services Town Hall London WC1H 9JE Tel: 020 7974 5726 Email: vicky.wemyss-cooke@camden.gov.uk</p>		
<p><b>RECOMMENDATION:</b></p> <p>(i) In accordance with Section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972, to agree an extension to the period of absence for Councillor Lotis Bautista for a period of up to four months beginning on 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2025; and</p> <p>(ii) To note that Councillor Lotis Bautista will continue to receive her Members' allowance during her absence.</p>		

Signed by:



Andrew Maughan  
Borough Solicitor

Date: 7<sup>th</sup> November 2025

## **1. Background**

- 1.1 In June 2013 the Council approved an amendment to the Members' Allowance scheme which introduced Maternity leave for councillors, during which time they would continue to receive their basic allowance and any special responsibility allowance to which they were entitled.
- 1.2 The scheme states that a Member is entitled to take up to 52 weeks maternity leave, starting no earlier than the 11<sup>th</sup> week before the expected week of childbirth.
- 1.3 However, Section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972 states that if a Member fails throughout a period of six consecutive months from the date of his or her last attendance to attend any meeting of the Council he or she shall on the expiry of that period cease to be a Member unless the failure was due to some reason approved by the Council. Attendance at a meeting of a committee or sub-committee of the Council or at any meeting of a joint committee or other such body discharging functions of the Council or at any meeting as a representative of the Council is deemed to be a meeting of the Council.
- 1.4 The right under the Members Allowances scheme to take 52 weeks maternity leave does not waive this legal requirement and so any extension of the absence period beyond six months must be agreed by the full Council.

## **2. Proposal**

- 2.1 The last meeting of the Council that Councillor Lotis Bautista attended was the Children, Schools and Families Scrutiny Committee meeting on 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2025, and she commenced her maternity leave on 30<sup>th</sup> June 2025.
- 2.2 Councillor Bautista has indicated that currently she intends to remain on maternity leave until the end of March, and the Council is therefore asked to agree an extension of the period of absence of a further four months from 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2025. At the end of the extension, the requirement for Councillor Bautista to attend a meeting at least once every six months will begin again.
- 2.3 The Council is also asked to note that, as stated in the Members' Allowance scheme, Councillor Bautista will continue to receive her basic allowance throughout the extension period.

## **3. Legal Comments of the Borough Solicitor**

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

## **3. Comments of the Director of Finance**

- 3.1. The Director of Finance has no comments.

#### **4. Environmental Implications**

4.1 There are no environmental implications.

**REPORT ENDS**