

Council/Committee:	Council
Report Title	Extension to Six Month Attendance Rule
Date of Meeting	22 July 2025
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Wards Affected	N/A
Appendices	N/A

1. **Executive Summary**

Councillor Nagi Daya Singh is currently suffering from ill-health. A formal request has been received for an extension to the six-month rule for non-attendance due to ill-health and ongoing recovery. The request seeks Full Council agreement to extend the application of the rule.

2. **Recommendations**

Council is recommended to:-

- 2.1 Having regard to the circumstances of the absence of Councillor Nagi Daya Singh from Council and Committees meetings, consideration be given to the waiving of the requirements of s.85 of the Local Government Act 1972 and to approve an extension of the six-month rule for Councillor Nagi Daya Singh with effect from 18 September 2025, expiring at 18 March 2026.

3. **Proposals – Reasons for the recommendations**

- 3.1 An extension of the six-month attendance rule is sought to excuse the non-attendance of Councillor Nagi Daya Singh for a further period due to ill-health
- 3.2 Full Council can only consider such a request where approval is given in relation to the reasons for non-attendance before the end of the relevant six-month period, which will be on 18 September 2025.

- 3.3 It is requested that Council approve an extension of the six-month rule for Councillor Nagi Daya Singh and that Council's best wishes be conveyed for a speedy recovery. If approved, the extension of time would be effective until 18 March 2026. This does not, of course, prevent Councillor Nagi Daya Singh from returning to meetings at any time if his health improves sufficiently.

4. Alternative Options Considered

- 4.1 There are no alternative options. A formal request has been received and the Council is required to consider it.

5. Consultation

- 5.1 None required.

6. Financial Implications

- 6.1 There are no financial implications arising directly from this report.

7. Legal and Governance Implications

- 7.1 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 their last attendance, to attend any meeting of the Authority they will, unless the failure was due to some good reason approved by the Authority before the expiry of that period, cease to be a member of the Authority'.
- 7.2 Attendance can be at any committee or sub-committee, or any joint committee, joint board or other body where the functions of the Authority are discharged or who were appointed to advise the Authority on any matter relating to the discharge of their functions.
- 7.3 The requirement can be waived and the time limit extended if any failure to attend was due to a reason approved by the Authority, in advance of the six month period expiring.
- 7.4 Should any councillor lose office through failure to attend for the six-month period, the disqualification cannot be overcome by the councillor subsequently resuming attendance nor can retrospective approval of the Council be sought for an extension in time.

8. Risks

- 8.1 If the Council decided not to approve an extension a casual vacancy would arise.

9. Equality and Diversity Implications (including the public sector equality duty)

- 9.1 There are no direct equality implications arising from this report.

10. Other Relevant Implications

- 10.1 No other relevant implications arising from this report.

11. Background Documents

None

12. How does this deliver the objectives of the Strategic Themes?

- 12.1 This is a statutory matter for consideration by Full Council that is not directly linked to the delivery of the corporate plan.