

## Council – 15th July, 2019

### Local Government Act, 1972 – Attendance at meetings

#### 1. Summary of report

To advise the Council of the position relating to Councillor Sean Coughlan with regard to attendance at meetings.

#### 2. Recommendations

That approval be granted for an extension of absence until May, 2020 to Councillor Sean Coughlan as a consequence of his ill health.

#### 3. Background information

- 3.1 Section 85(1) of the Local Government Act, 1972, expressly provides that where a Council member fails throughout a period of six consecutive months from the date of his/her last attendance to attend any meeting of the authority, then subject to certain exemptions, that member ceases to be a member of the authority unless the failure was due to some reason approved before the expiry of that period.
- 3.2 The Council has discretion to set the period of time for an extension of absence until the term of office of the Councillor has ended. The term of office of Councillor Coughlan ceases in May, 2020
- 3.3. Councillor Sean Coughlan last attended a meeting of the authority on 28th February, 2019 and will therefore cease to be a member of this authority on 28th August, 2019, unless Council grant approval for an extension of this period of absence as provided for under Section 85(1) of the Local Government Act, 1972.



**Dr Helen Paterson**  
Chief Executive

8th July, 2019

#### Author

Neil Picken

Senior Democratic Services Officer

☎ 01922 654369

✉ [neil.picken@walsall.gov.uk](mailto:neil.picken@walsall.gov.uk)