

REPORT FROM: CORPORATE DIRECTOR

TO: COUNCIL

DATE: 24th SEPTEMBER, 2020

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VACANCIES IN THE OFFICE OF COUNCILLOR

PURPOSE OF REPORT:

To report that three vacancies in the office of Councillor have arisen which the Council is require to formally declare.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- (1) That the offices of Councillor held by Christian Wakeford, Steve Petty and Qamar Shazad be declared vacant.
- (2) That public notice be given of the casual vacancies.

REASON FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

To fulfil the legal requirement on the Council in s86 Local Government Act 1972.

1. Three vacancies in the office of Councillor have occurred as a result of non-attendance at Council or Committee meetings for a period of six consecutive months.
2. In the case of Councillor Christian Wakeford non-attendance between 24th October, 2019 and 23rd April, 2020.
3. In the case of Councillor Steve Petty non-attendance between 6th February and 5th August, 2020.
4. In the case of Councillor Qamar Shazad non-attendance between 3rd March and 2nd September, 2020.
5. It is fair to say that due to the Covid 19 pandemic there has been some disruption to the normal pattern of meetings with some cancelations, alterations of start times and the change to remote meetings.

6. However the legal requirement in s85 Local Government Act 1972 to attend meetings is unchanged. Immediately upon his/her failure to attend a meeting for six consecutive months the Councillor automatically ceases to be a member of the Council. There is no discretion for the Council over this.
7. The requirement on the Council is now to formally declare the three casual vacancies and to give notice of these.
8. As Members will know Regulations made by the Government at the start of the pandemic state that by-elections to fill the vacancies will not be held until May next year.

IMPLICATIONS

Policy: None arising from the report.

Financial: There will be a resulting small underspend on members' allowances.

Legal: This is set out above.

Risk Management: None arising from the report.

Health and Safety: None arising from the report.

Sustainability: None arising from the report.

Community Safety: None arising from the report.

Equality and Diversity: None arising from the report.