

STROUD DISTRICT COUNCIL

COUNCIL

THURSDAY, 18 MAY 2023

Report Title	DISPENSATION UNDER SECTION 85 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972			
Purpose of Report	To approve the absence of Councillor Victoria Gray from Council meetings due to ill health			
Decision(s)	The Council RESOLVES to authorise Councillor Victoria Gray to be absent from all meetings of the Authority for a 6 month period with effect from 19 May 2023.			
Consultation and Feedback	None			
Report Author	Claire Hughes, Corporate Director (Monitoring Officer) Email: claire.hughes@stroud.gov.uk			
Options	The options are either to grant the dispensation, or decline to do so.			
Background Papers	None			
Appendices	None			
Implications	Financial	Legal	Equality	Environmental
	No	Yes	No	No

1. REQUEST FOR DISPENSATION

- 1.1 Councillor Victoria Gray has requested a six month dispensation from attendance at meetings of the authority due to a severe respiratory infection. She is currently unable to attend any meetings..
- 1.2 Section 85 of the Local Government Act 1872 provides 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.*”
- 1.3 Councillor Gray last attended a meeting of the authority when she was present at the meeting of the Development Control Committee on 17 January 2023. Section 85(2) of the 1972 Act deems attendance at a meeting of a committee or sub-committee or other council body to be attendance at a meeting of the authority.
- 1.4 Due to health issues, Councillor Gray has not been able to attend a meeting since then and, accordingly, a further dispensation is requested to enable her to remain a member of the Council.

1.5 A dispensation does not preclude Councillor Gray from attending a future meeting during that period should she be well enough to do so.

2. IMPLICATIONS

2.1 Financial Implications

There are no significant implications within this category.

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2.2 Legal Implications

If Councillor Gray is unable to attend any further meetings within 6 months of their last meeting, then she would cease to be a member of the Council unless Council authorises their absence.

Claire Hughes, Corporate Director (Monitoring Officer)

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2.3 Equality Implications

There are not any specific changes to service delivery proposed within this decision.

2.4 Environmental Implications

There are no significant implications within this category.