

Report of	Monitoring Officer	Author	Richard Clifford
Title	Authorisation of absence from Council and Committee meetings		
Wards affected	Lexden and Braiswick		

1. Executive Summary

1.1 Council can provide a dispensation to Councillors from the provisions of section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972 and authorise continued absence from Council or Committee meetings. This report invites Council to authorise such a dispensation for Councillor Naylor.

2. Recommended Decision

2.1 To approve the absence of Councillor Naylor from attendance at Council and Committee meetings for a period of six months from 7 June 2023, pursuant to the provisions of section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972.

3. Reason for Recommended Decision

3.1 Council needs to authorise the absence of Councillor Naylor in line with the provisions of section 85 of the Local Government Act. If Council does not do so, she will cease to be a member of Colchester City Council on 7 June 2023.

4. Alternative Options

4.1 No alternative options are proposed.

5. Background Information

5.1 Section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972 provides that if a member of a local authority fails to attend any Council or Committee meeting for a period of six months he or she ceases to be a member of the local authority unless the absence was approved by Council before the expiry of the six month period.

5.2 Councillor Naylor has not been able to attend any Council or Committee meetings for reasons of ill health. She last attended a meeting on 7 December 2022.

5.3 Under the circumstances it is requested that Council approve her continued absence for a period of six months from 7 June 2023. This would be consistent with previous decisions by Council when other Councillors have faced similar attendance issues and also would be supportive to Councillor Naylor. The extension would not prevent Councillor Naylor from returning to meetings at any time.

6. Standard References

6.1 There are no particular references to the Strategic Plan; consultation or publicity considerations or financial; community safety; health and safety, risk management or environment and sustainability implications.