



Full Council
24th November 2008

**Report from the
Democratic Services Manager**

For Action

Wards Affected:
None

Councillor Steel – absence from meetings

1.0 Summary

- 1.1 Councillor Steel has not attended any meeting of the Council since 28th July 2008 (Alcohol & Entertainment Licensing Sub-Committee) soon after which he had an accident that left him hospitalised. The Council needs to take a decision to approve his absence or he will cease to be a member of the Council on 28th January 2009.

2.0 Recommendation

- 2.1 The Council is asked to consider whether, should Councillor Steel not attend a meeting before 28th January 2009, his absence from meetings of the Council for a period in excess of 6 months should be approved due to him being hospitalised and recuperating from an accident.

3.0 Detail

- 3.1 The last meeting Councillor Steel attended was the Alcohol & Entertainment Licensing Sub-Committee C on 28th July 2008. Councillor Steel was shortly after involved in an accident which resulted in him being hospitalised. Although he is now out of hospital and making progress he faces further possible hospital treatment and so is currently unable to attend a meeting. It is unclear when Councillor Steel will be well enough to be able to attend a meeting.

3.2 The Council needs to take a decision on whether to approve Councillor Steel's absence, otherwise, if he does not attend a meeting before 28th January 2009, he will cease to be a member of the Council.

4.0 Financial Implications

4.1 There are none specific to this report

5.0 Legal Implications

5.1 Section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972 stipulates that any member who fails to attend any meeting of the Council for a period of six consecutive months shall cease to be a member of the Council. The only exception to this is if the failure to attend any meeting was for a reason approved by the Council.

6.0 Diversity Implications

6.1 There are none specific to this report.

Background Papers

Local Government Act 1972

Contact Officers:

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