

MINUTES OF MEETING Cabinet Member Signing HELD ON Monday, 4th January, 2021, 13.45

PRESENT:

Councillors: Joseph Ejiofor

ALSO ATTENDING:

17. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

18. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

19. ATTENDANCE AT MEETINGS OF AN AUTHORITY BY A MEMBER NON KEY

The Leader of the Council considered the report which set out confirmation from the Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group of the continuing ill health of Cllr Hinchcliffe and advising that he would be unable to attend a Council meeting prior to the 12th of January 2021. In line with previous Counsel advice, the report proposed to extend the requirement to attend a Council meeting, through executive decision making, by 2 months, to allow time for recovery and Cllr Hinchcliffe's attendance at a Council meeting by the 12th of March.

RESOLVED

1. To note that Councillor Justin Hinchcliffe has been unable to attend Council meetings due to ill health, and the last meeting he attended was on the 13th of July 2020.
2. To approve that Councillor Hinchcliffe will continue to be a Member of this Council until the 12th of March even if he does not attend a meeting of the authority (as defined in section 85(2) Local Government Act 1972) due to ill health; and
3. To note that if Cllr Hinchcliffe does not attend a meeting of the authority (as defined in section 85(2) Local Government Act 1972 by 12th of March, he will cease to be a member after that date.

Reasons for decision

The Leader is requested to approve the above recommendations to allow Councillor Hinchcliffe the opportunity to recover from a period of ill health and retain his membership on the Council.

If the reason for Councillor Hinchcliffe’s failure to attend meetings is not approved before the expiry of 6 months from his last attendance (i.e. by 13th July 2020), he will automatically cease to be a member of the Council, as a result of section 85(1) Local Government Act 1972.

The extension of 2 months is thought to be appropriate given Councillor Hinchcliffe’s ill health. This will also allow an assessment of his further support needs, and preparations to be taken forward for a bi-election, in parallel to the GLA elections, if required.

Alternative options considered

The Leader could do nothing. However, Councillor Hinchcliffe continues to be unable to attend meetings and, if his extension is not approved, he will automatically cease to be a member of the Council after the 12th of January 2021.

CHAIR:

Signed by Chair

Date