

COUNCIL

DATE	24 th September 2026
REPORT OF	The Chief Executive
SUBJECT	Dispensation – Section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972
STATUS	Open
FORWARD PLAN REF NO.	Not applicable

CONTRIBUTION TO OUR AIMS

Good governance arrangements contribute directly to the achievement of the Council's strategic aims.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A report recommending the provision of a special dispensation under Section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That Council grants a special dispensation to Councillor Janet Haggis until 31st July 2027, in accordance with Section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972, for health reasons.

REASONS FOR DECISION

The granting of a dispensation in accordance with Section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972 is a matter reserved to full Council, taking into account the individual circumstances of the Elected Member in question.

1. BACKGROUND AND ISSUES

- 1.1 In accordance with Section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972, any member, who, for six months, fails to attend any meeting of the Authority, ceases to be a member unless within that period his/her absence is approved by the Authority. The six month period starts to run from the date of the councillor's last attendance and a special dispensation must be granted by the Council before the expiry of the six month period, in order to avoid disqualification from office.

Councillor Haggis:

- 1.2 Councillor Haggis last attended a "qualifying" meeting of the authority on the 2nd June 2026.
- 1.3 Group Leaders have been informed of the legitimate health reasons for Councillor Haggis's absence from meetings of the Council. In the circumstances and, in order to avoid disqualification from office, it is recommended that Members approve Councillor Haggis's continued absence.

2. RISKS AND OPPORTUNITIES

There may be reputational risks for the Council in failing to agree a dispensation in a timely manner.

3. OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

Not applicable.

4. REPUTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS CONSIDERATIONS

These matters are reported to the Council as required by the Constitution and to support the continued good governance of the Council.

5. FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

There are no financial considerations to be taken into account as a result of the recommendations within this report.

6. CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE IMPLICATIONS

There are no implications for children and young people arising from the recommendations within this report.

7. CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no climate change or environmental implications arising from the recommendations within this report.

8. CONSULTATION WITH SCRUTINY

Not applicable.

9. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no direct financial implications arising from the recommendations in this report.

10. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

As set out in the main body of the report.

11. HUMAN RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS

There are no direct human resources implications arising from the recommendations in this report.

12. WARD IMPLICATIONS

Sidney Sussex.

13. BACKGROUND PAPERS

None.

14. CONTACT OFFICER(S)

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