

NORTH LONDON WASTE AUTHORITY

REPORT TITLE: MEMBERSHIP OF THE AUTHORITY

REPORT OF: MANAGING DIRECTOR

FOR SUBMISSION TO: AUTHORITY MEETING

DATE: 13 FEBRUARY 2025

SUMMARY OF REPORT:

This report explains the statutory six-month rule and seeks approval of the reasons for a Member's absence from this meeting to ensure their continuity of membership.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The Authority is recommended to approve the reason for absence of Councillor Paul Douglas from the meeting on 13 February 2025, being long-term sick leave, extending membership until 24 April 2025, the date of the next Authority meeting.

SIGNED:  Managing Director

DATE: 03 February 2025

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. This report explains the statutory six-month rule and seeks approval of the reasons for a Member's absence from this meeting to ensure their continuity of membership.

2. THE SIX MONTH RULE

- 2.1. Under the Local Government Act 1972, if a Councillor fails to attend a meeting of the Authority for six consecutive months, they cease to be a member of that Authority, unless the Authority accepts a reason for the failure before the six-month period expires (the 'six-month rule').
- 2.2. Councillors from NLWA's seven Constituent Boroughs are appointed at their Councils' Annual General Meetings, usually held in May each year. In accordance with the six-month rule, if they are to remain members of NLWA, they must attend one of its meetings within six months of their date of appointment, and at least once within every six months thereafter.
- 2.3. To support Members, a record of attendance is kept and Members advised when they are at risk of not attending a meeting within the required six month time frame.

3. RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1. Councillor Paul Douglas attended the Authority's meeting on 30 July but was not able to attend the Authority meeting on 30 September and gave apologies for the 5 December meeting due to sickness. The Authority resolved on 5 December 2024 to approve Councillor Douglas' reason for absence as long-term sickness, until the meeting on 13 February 2025.
- 3.2. Councillor Douglas is still on long-term sick leave so will not be in attendance at the meeting on 13 February. If the Authority does not approve the reason for his absence, Councillor Douglas will cease to be a member of the Authority on 13 February 2025. Accordingly, the Authority is recommended to approve the reason for Councillor Douglas's absence, being long-term sick leave, until 24 April 2025, the date of the next Authority meeting.

4. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1. There are no equalities implications.

5. COMMENTS OF THE LEGAL ADVISER

- 5.1. The Legal Adviser has been consulted in the preparation of this report and has no comments to add.

6. COMMENTS OF THE FINANCIAL ADVISER

- 6.1. The Financial Adviser has been consulted in the preparation of this report and has no comments to add.

List of documents used:

Correspondence with constituent Boroughs relating to membership.

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