

Birmingham City Council

Council Business Management Committee

2 April 2024



Subject: **Dispensations for Non-Attendance at Committee Meetings**

Report of: Marie Rosenthal, Interim City Solicitor and Monitoring Officer

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Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? Yes No

If relevant, state which appendix is exempt, and provide exempt information paragraph number or reason if confidential:

1 Executive Summary

- 1.1 If a Member of the City Council does not attend any meeting of the Council for a period of six months, they shall cease to be a Member of the Council.
- 1.2 This report provides details of a recommendation that the Council approves a period of absence from meetings by Councillors Saima Ahmed.

2 Recommendation(s)

- 2.1 That Council agree to a dispensation that Councillor Saima Ahmed need not attend any council meetings until 12 June 2024 pursuant to Section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972.

3 Background

- 3.1 Councillor Saima Ahmed last attended a meeting of the City Council on 12 October 2023. She has been unable to attend a meeting since this date due to caring responsibilities.

3.2 If a dispensation is not granted, Councillor Saima Ahmed would cease to be a Member of the Council on 12 April 2024.

3.3 If Councillor Saima Ahmed attends any City Council or Committee meeting in advance of 12 October 2024, a dispensation will not be required.

4 Legal Implications

4.1 Section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972 requires a Member of a local authority to attend at least one meeting of the Authority within a six-month period, unless permission for the absence is granted by the Authority in advance, in order to avoid being disqualified as a Councillor. Without advance permission to be absent, loss of office is automatic, and permission cannot be granted retrospectively.

5 Financial Implications

5.1 There are no immediate financial implications arising from this report.

6 Public Sector Equality Duty

6.1 There are no immediate equality implications arising from this report.

7 Other Implications

7.1 None.

8 Appendices

8.1 None.

9 Background Papers

9.1 None.