

SLOUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Council

DATE: 19th October 2011

CONTACT OFFICER: Catherine Meek, Deputy Borough Secretary.
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WARD(S): All

PART I **FOR DECISION**

COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP

1 Purpose of Report

To consider whether to grant Councillor Choudhry a dispensation to the 'six month' rule in the event that he is not able to attend the meeting. This item was deferred from the Council meeting on 29th September 2011.

2. Recommendation

In the event that Councillor Choudhry is unable to attend the Council meeting, the Council is requested to resolve whether he be granted an extension to the six month rule, due to his poor health, and for what period of time.

3 Community Strategy Priorities

Effective, transparent and democratic decision making processes are an essential pre-requisite to the delivery of all the Council's priorities.

4. Other Implications

4.1 The proposals have no workforce or financial implications. There are no Human Rights Act implications

4.2 Legal - The Local Government Act 1972 states that 'if a member of a local authority fails throughout a period of six consecutive months from the date of his last attendance to attend any meeting of the authority, he shall, unless the failure was due to some reason approved by the authority before the expiry of that period, cease to be a member of the authority.'

5. Supporting Information

5.1 Any member of a local authority who fails to attend any meeting of the authority for a period of six months ceases to be a member of that authority unless the Council considers the reasons for failure to attend and agrees to extend the period.

- 5.2 Councillor Choudhry has advised the Deputy Borough Secretary that he is, and has been, unwell and has been unable to attend a meeting since the Planning Committee on 17th May 2011. Councillor Choudhry is anticipating attending this Council meeting if his health permits. However if he is unable to attend he has asked that the Council consider granting him a dispensation to extend the six month rule to allow time for his health to improve.

6. **Background Papers**

Agenda and Minutes – Council – 29th September 2011