

## SLOUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Council

DATE: 18<sup>th</sup> February 2014

CONTACT OFFICER: Catherine Meek, Head of Democratic Services.  
(For all enquiries) (01753) 875011

WARD(S): All

### PART I FOR DECISION

#### COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP

##### 1 Purpose of Report

To consider whether to grant Councillor Small a dispensation to the 'six month' rule in the event that she is not able to attend the meeting.

##### 2. Recommendation

In the event that Councillor Small is unable to attend the Council meeting, the Council is requested to resolve whether she be granted an extension to the six month rule 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 Small has given her apologies for meetings since 10th September 2013 due to her husband's ill health. Councillor Small has advised that she is anticipating attending this Council meeting if her husband's health permits. However if she is unable to attend she has asked that the Council consider granting her a dispensation to extend the six month rule.

##### 6. Background Papers

Request for dispensation from Councillor Small