

**Approval of absence**

**Submitted by:** Chief Executive

**Portfolio:** Leader of the Council

**Ward(s) affected:** Kidsgrove

**Purpose of the report**

This report sets out the reasons for the Council approving a Councillor's absence under section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972 on the grounds of ill health.

**Recommendation:**

That the Council approves the absence of Cllr Mrs Margaret Astle from 9 September until 22nd February 2017 pursuant to section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972 on account of her ill health.

**1. Background**

1.1 Under the provisions of the Local Government Act 1972 Section 85 a Member of the Council ceases to be a member of the authority if they have failed throughout a period of six consecutive months from the date of their last attendance to attend any meeting of the authority, which, unless failure was due to some reason approved by the authority before the expiry of that period.

**2. Mrs Margaret Astle**

2.1 Mrs Astle attended a meeting of Kidsgrove Area Residents Association on Thursday 8 September 2016. The provisions of Section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972 would therefore apply on 9 March 2017 unless the Council approves Cllr Mrs Astle's absence. As Members will be aware, Councillor Mrs Astle has been seriously ill in recent months including a stay in hospital in October 2016. She wished to continue to perform her role as a Councillor during that time but was being advised by her doctor to limit her activities to aid a swift recuperation. As a result she has been unable to attend Council meetings, although continues to wish to do so.

2.2 The Council is therefore requested to approve the absence of Cllr Mrs Margaret Astle from 9 September until 22nd February 2017 pursuant to section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972 on account of her ill health.