



TITLE OF CONSULTATION: 6 MONTH RULE

**OFFICER REQUESTING: SIMON COPLEY – DEMOCRATIC SERVICES
MANAGER & DEPUTY MONITORING OFFICER**

1.0 PURPOSE

1.1 A decision is needed to grant a dispensation from the 6 month rule for any Members who cannot attend meetings owing to Covid-19.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION(S)

2.1 It is recommended that:

- (i) A dispensation is approved from the 6 month rule for any Members who cannot attend meetings owing to Covid-19.
- (ii) The Leader and Chair of Council is consulted.

3.0 REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION(S)

3.1 To ensure no Members are deemed to have resigned because they have not attended meetings owing to illness or self-isolation.

4.0 SIGNIFICANT RISKS

4.1 None

5.0 IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The following implications have been identified:

- a) Financial
None
- b) Legal
Legal advice has confirmed this is a lawful way to deal with this issue.
- c) Other (Equalities, Staffing, Planning, Health & Safety, Environmental and Climate Change, Crime & Disorder)
None

6.0 MONITORING OFFICER ADVICE

Consultation is required with the Leader and the Chair of Council as this is a matter of process.

7.0 CONSULTATION RECORD

According to the Constitution, under urgency powers, decisions usually taken by the Council and its committees are taken by the CEO following consultation with the appropriate elected members.

The appropriate elected members are:

- The Leader of the Council
- The Chair of the appropriate committee, for matters relating to that specific committee¹
- Relevant Ward member(s), if any, for matters of particular relevance to that ward²

Name of consultee	Cllr Duncan - Leader
This is urgently required to ensure no member is penalised due to the coronavirus outbreak. I have been able to discuss this with Michael Cleary (Chairman of Council), Steve Arnold (Deputy Leader of Council; Ryedale First Independent group leader) and Di Keal (Liberal Democrat group leader) who agreed with this approach. Power should be delegated to the Monitoring Officer to give dispensation as required, after considering circumstances on a case by case basis, but this power should last only until the next meeting of Full Council, after which council can give dispensation as required.	
Date consultation completed	31-03-20

Name of consultee	Cllr Cleary – Chair of Council
The Chair of Council was happy with this approach.	
Date consultation completed	25-03-20

8.0 DECISION

Decision of the CEO based on consultation	The recommendations are approved.
Date	31-03-20

¹ “Chairman of the appropriate Committee” refers to committee specific matters and does not mean that all Committee Chairs will be consulted on everything

² “Relevant Ward Member(s), if any” refers to ward specific matters and does not mean that all Members will be consulted on everything