



F&A – 30 April 2020

Agenda Item FA1506/20

Enabling Attendance at Council Meetings – Carer's Allowance

Introduction

The diversity of the council's members better reflects than it has for several years, the society they represent. The age and gender balance has changed and the council may need to consider its policies, where enabled by legislation, to meet changing needs.

Discussion

There are a number of reasons why councillors might not be able to attend all the meetings of council and committees that they would wish. Some of these will be work related and there is little the council can do to mitigate the effect.

Another reason may be the need for councillors to discharge domestic care responsibilities for someone who is part of their household, whether old, young, sick or disabled. The need to find alternative carers and the cost of so doing may be a factor for some members. The Council may be able to respond to this need by making a carer's allowance.

Recommendations

- The Clerk to the Council to research if there is enabling legislation for this allowance, to establish what level may be appropriate, what processes would be required and to report back to the next full council meeting for councillors to review and make a decision.

Cllr Nigel Cole
April 2020