
Report To:	Inverclyde Council	Date : 7 October 2010
Report By:	Head of Legal & Democratic Services	Report No: LA/580/10
Contact Officer:	Elaine Paterson	Contact No: 01475 712139
Subject:	Approval for Continued Absence of a Councillor	

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to advise of the use of the powers delegated to the Chief Executive to approve the continued absence of Councillor Grieve due to illness and to request the Council to review the position at its meeting in December.

2.0 SUMMARY

- 2.1 Councillor Grieve has been unable to attend meetings of the Council since 10 March 2010 due to illness.
- 2.2 In terms of the Council's Standing Orders and Scheme of Administration (SO 11), if a member fails throughout a period of six consecutive months to attend any meetings of the Council he or she shall, unless the failure was due to some reason approved by the Council, cease to be a member. The terms of the Council's Standing Orders reflect the terms of Section 35 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973.
- 2.3 In the past, in circumstances similar to those which affect Councillor Grieve, the Council has agreed to approve the continued absence of a member, and it would be appropriate to make a similar decision with respect to Councillor Grieve.
- 2.4 Although Councillor Grieve has been unable to attend meetings of the Council, he has continued to deal with correspondence and constituency matters.
- 2.5 Councillor Grieve does intend to return to Council duties in due course but is unable at present to give an indication of when that is likely to be.
- 2.6 The use of emergency powers is requested as no Council Meeting is scheduled to take place before 9 September on which date the six month period referred to in para 2.2 above will have expired.
- 2.7 There are no financial implications related to this report.

3.0 USE OF POWERS DELEGATEED TO THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

- 3.1 The use of the powers delegated to the Chief Executive was authorised by Provost McCormick, Councillor Wilson, Councillor McCabe and Councillor MacLeod and the Corporate Director Regeneration & Environment (in the Chief Executive's absence).

4.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 That the use of the powers delegated to the Chief Executive be noted; and

4.2 That the Council agree to review the position at the meeting scheduled to be held on 2 December 2010.

Elaine Paterson
Head of Legal & Democratic Service