

**15. COUNCILLOR D.C. SHORT. MBE - ST NICHOLAS
WARD: LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 - SECTION 85****Report By: County Secretary and Solicitor****Wards Affected**

St Nicholas

Purpose

1. To ask Council to take the precaution of granting Councillor Rev D.C. Short, MBE leave of absence until the next meeting of Council on 16th January, 2004 in case he is unable to attend a Council meeting prior to 16th December, 2003.

Background

2. Councillor Short has, through ill health, been unable to attend any Council meetings since 16th June, 2003. Councillor Short wishes to return as soon as he is able but it is not yet clear whether he will be able to attend Council meetings before the expiry of six months since his last attendance. There is a risk that he will be automatically disqualified from office under Section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972 because of his failure to attend a meeting for a period in excess of six months. Leave of absence may be granted by Council but cannot be granted retrospectively.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT leave of absence be granted to Councillor Rev. D.C. Short, MBE until the matter can next be reviewed at the Council meeting to be held on 16th January, 2004.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

None identified.