

# Taunton Deane Borough Council

## Report of the Chief Executive to Full Council – 17 February 2009

### Non attendance at meetings – Councillor John Bone, Wiveliscombe and West Deane Ward

(This matter is the responsibility of Councillor Henley, Leader of the Council.)

#### 1. Background

- 1.1 Councillor John Bone has not attended any “qualifying” meetings of the Council nor any other meeting as a representative of the Council since the 15 July 2008.
- 1.2. Section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972 provides that if a Member fails to attend any such qualifying meeting for a period of six months the Council, must unless a reason for non-attendance has been approved by the Council before the expiry of the period, declare the seat to be vacant. The six months expired on the 16 January 2009.
- 1.3. The Chief Executive has written to Councillor Bone informing him of the situation and inviting him to comment on the accuracy of the information in paragraph 1.1.
- 1.4. In the absence of any contrary information from Councillor Bone, the Council is asked to declare the seat to be vacant. The by-election to fill the vacancy (the term of office for which expires in May 2011) must be held within 35 days of the declaration of the vacancy on a date fixed by the Returning Officer.

#### 2. Recommendation

- 2.1. That the seat in the Wiveliscombe and West Deane Ward be declared vacant.

Penny James  
Chief Executive.