

**CONGLETON TOWN COUNCIL**

**COUNCIL REPORT**

<b>MEETING DATE AND TIME</b>	10 <sup>th</sup> August 2023 7.00pm	<b>LOCATION</b>	Bridestones Suite Town Hall
<b>REPORT FROM</b>	David McGifford Chief Officer		
<b>AGENDA ITEM REPORT TITLE</b>	<b>Agenda item 14</b> Councillor Attendance Records		
<b>Background</b>	Attendance figures for all Councillors are already available and in the public domain by review of all committee and full council meeting minutes. However, collating this data is time-consuming for the public to access and is not tabulated. Officers do keep these records as they have to monitor attendance due to the six-month ruling on councillor attendance		
<b>Points for consideration</b>	Members and officers of the Council have been approached by residents requesting that we make this information more accessible for members of the public, as is done by some town councils and local authorities. It needs to be noted that some councillors may have work, health, mobility or childcare issues which prevent them from attending therefore attendance at meetings should not be seen in isolation as councillor attendance figures may not reflect the quality or impact of councillors' work, for example some councillors - <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. may contribute more outside of meetings than others, such as supporting officer work and council events, campaigns, or community engagement.</li><li>2. may attend a lot of meetings but not contribute anything during those meetings</li><li>3. Being a town councillor is an unpaid role unlike within a local authority</li></ol>		
<b>Finance</b>	There is minimal cost involved in recording attendance at meetings as this is already done and a simple table could be accessed through the website		
<b>Environment</b>	There are no environmental implications		
<b>Equality</b>	The information which is available on the website could be forwarded to or collected by residents who do not have access to IT		
<b>Proposal</b>	That Councillor attendance at all committee meetings for which they are a member along with full Town Council meetings should be recorded and published on the Congleton Town Council Web Page in a way that is easily accessible to the public.		

