



PRESS RELEASE

A group of nine Scarborough Borough Councillors of mixed political affiliation (including members of the Green Group, the Independent Group and the Labour Group) have today served on SBC Mayor Councillor Joe Plant (Conservative) a formal Requisition calling for an Extraordinary Meeting of Full Council, in the following terms:

In light of recent Judgments, rulings and barristerial opinions, we call upon the Leader and Cabinet to satisfy this Council that actions by the Authority to exclude/disbar any elected member from entering Council premises, attending meetings of Council/Committees and engaging with Council Officers, are lawful, proportionate and compliant with due process, as set out in the Council's adopted and published Constitution, Protocols and Procedures, under the laws of England and Wales.

Should the Leadership fail to satisfy any member of this Council that a lawful, justifiable and defensible process is in place, the following Motions are to be placed before the Council:

- 1) That the Council immediately reinstate, without restriction, any member or members so disbarred;*
- 2) This Council commission a member-controlled, full, unlimited and independent external enquiry into the disbarment of elected members.*

This Requisition has been served in order to achieve clarity on the matter of the legality, or otherwise, of the Chief Executive's autonomous decision to disbar an unaffiliated member who has been struggling with a disablement. The Chief Executive's action appears to run counter to recent Court Judgments handed down in relation to similar disbarments and/or sanctions imposed elsewhere in the country, and counter to legal opinion published by barristers and other experts in governance law, all of which indicate that, under the terms of the Localism Act 2011, only a Standards Committee may impose limitations of any kind on elected members' attendance - and then only limited constraints falling far short of the present comprehensive disbarment from all Council premises, from attending meetings of Council and Committees, and from contacting Council personnel.

The fundamental democratic principle at stake is that it cannot be right that the voters' choice can be nullified by the stroke of a bureaucrat's pen.

Signatories to the Requisition, by Group (alphabetically), are:

Cllr. Mark Vesey (Green Group [Leader])

Cllr. Sam Cross (Ind. Group [Leader]), Cllr. Norman Murphy (Ind. Group [Deputy Leader]), Cllr. Jonathan Dodds (Ind. Group), Cllr. Roxanne Murphy (Ind. Group), Cllr. Janet Jefferson (Ind. Group)

Cllr. Tony Randerson (Lab. Group [Deputy Leader]), Cllr. Rob Barnett (Lab. Group) **PROPOSER**, Cllr. Eric Broadbent (Lab. Group) **SECONDER**

- END -

Editors: For further information, please call [Cllr. Tony Randerson](mailto:tony.randerson@scborc.gov.uk) on **07926-226904**.