

Report to: **Special Meeting of the District Council of Easington**

Date: **5 March 2009**

Report of: **Head of Democratic Services**

Subject: **Honorary Aldermen**

Ward: **All**

**1. Purpose of Report**

1.1 The purpose of the report is to consider bestowing the title of Honorary Alderman on two serving Members and two former Members of the District of Easington who, in the opinion of the Council, have rendered eminent services to the Council.

**2. Consultation**

1.1 This report has been prepared in consultation with the Leader of the Council, Chief Executive and the Monitoring Officer.

**3. Background**

3.1 In accordance with Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972, a policy for conferring the title of Honorary Alderman was adopted by the District Council at its meeting on 5 October 1995.

3.2 It was agreed at that meeting that the title may be conferred on former Members, who in the opinion of the Council, have rendered eminent services to the Council for 25 consecutive years or more.

3.3 For those authorities subject to local government reorganisation, the Local Government (Structural Changes) (Transition Arrangements) (No.2) Regulations 2008 implemented on 28 November 2008 amended the criteria for the appointment of Honorary Aldermen. These Regulations now allow the Council to bestow the title of Honorary Alderman on serving Members as well as former Members.

**4. Position Statement**

4.1 Councillors Frank Shaw and Brian Quinn each have 36 years consecutive service and are due to retire when the Council ceases to exist on 31 March 2009.

4.2 Accordingly, Members are asked to consider bestowing the title of Honorary Alderman on Councillors Shaw and Quinn, in recognition of their eminent services to the Council.

4.3 Members are also asked to consider conferring the title to former Councillors Colin Reynolds and Joe Goodwin in recognition of their eminent services to the Council during their time as Members. Both Members retired from the Council in 2007 with 31 years consecutive service each.

**5. Implications**

**5.1 Financial**

5.1.1 There are no financial implications.

**5.2 Legal and Policy**

5.2.1 The Council has the power to bestow the title of Honorary Alderman to former or serving members who, in the opinion of the Council, have rendered eminent services to the Council, under Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972 and the Local Government (Structural Changes) (Transition Arrangements) (No.2) Regulations 2008.

5.2.2 A resolution to confer the title must be passed by not less than two-thirds of the Members voting thereon.

**5.3 Local Government Reorganisation**

5.3.1 All Honorary Aldermen appointed by the District of Easington will become Honorary Aldermen of Durham County Council on 1 April 2009.

**5.4 Risk**

5.4.1 There are no risk implications.

**6. Recommendation**

6.1 The Council is asked to consider bestowing the title of Honorary Alderman on serving Councillors Frank Shaw and Brian Quinn, and former Councillors Colin Reynolds and Joe Goodwin.

**Background Papers/Documents Referred to in the Preparation of this Report**

Local Government Act 1972

Local Government (Structural Changes) (Transition Arrangements) (No. 2) Regulations 2008

District Council Report and Minute dated 5 October 1995