



Local Government Act 1972

I Hereby Give You Notice that an **Extraordinary Meeting** of the Durham County Council Specially Convened under Section 249 of the Local Government 1972 will be held in the The Main Hall at Spennymoor Leisure Centre on **Wednesday 8 December 2021 immediately following the conclusion of the Ordinary meeting of the County Council (which commences at 10.00 a.m.)** to consider whether, in accordance with Section 249, the title of Honorary Aldermen / Honorary Alderwomen should be conferred on the persons detailed in the attached report.

1. To receive any declarations of interest from Members
2. Conferment of the Title of Honorary Aldermen / Honorary Alderwomen - Report of Corporate Director of Resources (Pages 3 - 10)

And pursuant to the provisions of the above-named act, **I Hereby Summon You** to attend the said meeting

Dated this 30th day of November 2021

Helen Lynch
Head of Legal and Democratic Services

To: All Members of the County Council

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8 December 2021

Conferment of the Title of
Honorary Aldermen / Honorary Alderwomen



Report of Corporate Management Team

Paul Darby, Interim Corporate Director of Resources

Councillor Amanda Hopgood, Leader of the Council

Councillor Richard Bell, Deputy Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Finance

Electoral division(s) affected:

Countywide

Purpose of the Report

- 1 To seek confirmation of the conferment of the title of Honorary Aldermen or Alderwoman upon retiring Members who qualify for the same in accordance with previously agreed criteria.

Executive summary

- 2 Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972 provides that the Council may, by resolution, passed by not less than two-thirds of the Members voting at a special meeting of the Council, confer the title of Honorary Alderman or Honorary Alderwoman, on persons who have, in the opinion of the Council, rendered eminent service to the Council as past Members of that Council. It is not possible to award the title to current councillors.
- 3 The Council agreed its criteria for conferring the title of Honorary Alderman/Alderwoman in July 2013 and reviewed and clarified the criteria in July 2017. At this special meeting of Council (following the already scheduled meeting on 8 December 2021), Council will consider to confer the honorary title in accordance with the criteria, with a presentation to the new Honorary Alderman/ Alderwoman being the first item of ordinary business at the Council meeting on 26 January 2022.

Recommendation(s)

4 It is recommended that Council:-

- (a) give approval for Officers to contact the eligible candidates to confirm that they are willing to accept the title;
- (b) that Council confers the title of Honorary Alderman/ Alderwoman on the former Councillors who are not already in receipt of the title, as listed at paragraph 8, provided that they have indicated their willingness to accept it.

Background

- 5 Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972 provides that the Council may, by resolution, passed by not less than two-thirds of the Members voting at a special meeting of the Council, confer the title of Honorary Aldermen or Honorary Alderwomen, on persons who have, in the opinion of the Council, rendered eminent service to the Council as past Members of that Council, but who are not then Members. It is not therefore possible to award the title to current Councillors.
- 6 Post Local Government Reorganisation, Council sought to harmonise the criteria for the conferment of the title of Honorary Alderman/Alderwoman that had previously existed in each of the eight constituent authorities. This led to Council agreeing in 2013 that the criteria be the completion of 16 years' as a councillor before becoming eligible for the conferment of the title of Honorary Alderman.
- 7 On 19 July 2017, Council resolved that the criteria adopted should be interpreted as being four complete terms, or sixteen years' service, to account for the terms of office shortened as a consequence of changes to local government elections due to a foot and mouth outbreak.

Conferment of the Title of Honorary Alderman

- 8 58 Members either retired or were not re-elected to the Council at the local government elections in May 2021. Of those twenty-two members meet the eligibility criteria referred to above:

Name	District Council Service Years	County Council Service Years	Total Years	Status
Bell, David	22	8	30	Honour already bestowed by former District Council
Bell, Ed (Edward)	10	13	23	

Name	District Council Service Years	County Council Service Years	Total Years	Status
Bleasdale, Gerry (Geraldine)	14	13	27	
Boyd, Lyn	26	4	30	Honour already bestowed by former District Council
Carr, Colin	4	14.5	18 years 5 months	Honour already bestowed by former District Council
Carr, Joanne	12	6.6	18 years 6 months	Honour already bestowed by former District Council
Hicks, Derek	14	8	22	
Huntington, Eunice	6	13	19	
Huntington, (Garry) James	18	7	25	
Iveson, Sarah Jane	2	16	18	
Johnson, Ossie (Oswald)	20	13	33	
Laing, Audrey	10	13	23	
Lethbridge, John	10	17.3	27 years 3 months	
Maitland, Joyce	14	8	22	

Name	District Council Service Years	County Council Service Years	Total Years	Status
Milburn, Olga	14	8	22	Honour already bestowed by former District Council
Napier, Alan	18	13	31	
Potts, Christine	14	13	27	Honour already bestowed by former District Council
Robinson, John	14	16	30	
Stephens, Brian	32	13	45	Honour already bestowed by former District Council
Temple, Owen	6	13	19	
Turnbull, John	6	10.7	16 years 7 months	
Willis, Audrey	6	13	19	

- 9 However, of those twenty-two eligible Members, seven have already had the title of Honorary Alderman/Alderwoman conferred on them by a District Council, and this honour was not lost by virtue of Local Government Reorganisation, but rather transferred from the awarding

district council to the County Council on 1 April 2009. Those seven former members are able to use the title of Honorary Alderman/Alderwoman without it being re-conferred.

- 10 The title of Honorary Alderman/Alderwoman may not be used by anyone whilst they serve as a Member of the Council. Honorary Aldermen / Alderwomen are entitled to attend and take part in such Civic events and ceremonies as the Council may, from time to time, decide, but shall not have the right to:-
- (a) attend meetings of the Council or Committees of the Council (except as a member of the public); or have the right to influence meetings of the Council or a Committee of the Council;
 - (b) receive allowances or payments under Sections 173 to 176 of the Local Government Act 1972 (travelling allowance, subsistence allowances, allowances for attending conferences, payment of expenses of official and courtesy visits);
 - (c) attend Civic Ceremonies. Over the years, the attendance of Honorary Aldermen/Alderwomen at events has been left to the discretion of the serving Chairman of the Council. In recent years Honorary Aldermen / Alderwomen have been invited to participate in the Chairman's Christmas lunch and attend each meeting of the County Council.
- 11 If council agrees to confer the honorary title, a presentation to the new Honorary Alderman/Alderwomen will be the first item of ordinary business at the Council meeting on 26 January 2022.

Background papers

- None

Author(s)

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Appendix 1: Implications

Legal Implications

Under Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972, the Council may by resolution, passed by not less than two-thirds of the Members voting at a special meeting of the Council, confer the title of Honorary Aldermen or Honorary Alderwomen, on persons who have, in the opinion of the Council, rendered eminent service to the Council as past Members of that Council, but who are not then Members.

To aid consistency of determination as to whether to award the honorary title by way of objective criteria adopted in 2013, and clarified in 2017 to mean service of four full terms.

Finance

There will be the cost of agendas and calling of a special meeting including Councillor travelling expenses. Holding the special meeting on a date already scheduled for a Council meeting will reduce these costs. The overall costs can be met from within existing budgets.

Consultation

As set out in the report.

Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty

There are no equality and diversity implications arising out of the report.

Climate Change

There are no climate change implications arising out of the report.

Human Rights

There are no Human Rights implications arising out of the report.

Crime and Disorder

There are no Crime and Disorder implications arising out of the report.

Staffing

There are no staffing implications arising out of the report.

Accommodation

There are no accommodation implications arising out of the report.

Risk

There are no risks to the Council arising out of the report.

Procurement

There are no procurement implications in relation to the report.