

**CHARTER TRUST FOR THE CITY OF
DURHAM**

23 March 2022

Honorary Aldermen - Recognition



City of Durham

Report of Kamila Coulson-Patel, Clerk to the Charter Trustees

Purpose of the Report

1. To consider the appointment of the Honorary Aldermen following the appointment of Alderman by Durham County Council on 26 January 2022.

Background

2. Charter Trustees will be aware that Durham County Council is the Principal Council, under the Local Government Act 1972, able to confer the title of Honorary Alderman since Local Government Re-Organisation in 2009.
3. Whilst the Charter Trust is not able to confer such title itself, it is open for it to consider acknowledging newly appointed Honorary Aldermen if it considers the individuals concerned have sufficient connection via past and present service with the old Durham City Council area. In doing so the Charter Trust will be ensuring some continuity of recognition for those individuals and strengthen the numbers entitled to attend future ceremonial events.
4. At a meeting of the Charter Trustees on 20 June 2018, the eligibility criteria for new and existing Honorary Alderman to attend ceremonial events was agreed as well as the robes which would be worn.
5. The earlier decisions of the Charter Trustees on 17 June 2015 and 28 October 2015 were noted which were to allow Past Mayors to attend ceremonial events and wear black/silver trim robes.
6. The eligibility criteria for recognition as Honorary Alderman was agreed as:

- (a) Previous Charter Trustee (having been elected to be County Councillor in a Ward of the old Durham City Council area) and/or
 - (b) Previous Charter Trustee (having been appointed by the Leader of Durham County Council to serve as a Charter Trustee of the wider area) and/or
 - (c) Currently living within or otherwise sufficiently connected to the old Durham City Council boundaries.
7. It was agreed at the meeting on 20 June 2018 that Honorary Alderman who had served 14 years representing an old Durham City area (as it was defined at cessation in 2009) would be eligible to take part in ceremonial events at wear red robes.
8. On 26 January 2022, Durham County Council conferred the honorary appointments of Alderman. Of those, the following individuals became eligible to be recognised by the Charter Trust as Honorary Aldermen:
 - David Bell – former Mayor – lives in Brandon – was made an Alderman by former Durham City Council had 22 years with former Durham City and 8 years with Durham County Council.
 - Edward Bell former Trustee /Mayor – lives in Seaham.
 - John Lethbridge former Trustee /Mayor – lives in Bishop Auckland.
 - John Robinson former Trustee/ Mayor – lives in Sedgefield.
 - John Turnbull - former Trustee lives in Brandon who had 6 years as a Durham City Councillor and 11 years as a County Councillor.
9. From the criteria previously agreed David Bell can now take up his role as an Alderman and wear a red robe. John Turnbull fulfils the criteria to be invited to the events and wear red robe due to 14 years service.

Recommendation

10. The Charter Trustees are recommended to:
 - (a) Note the eligibility of those proposed as Honorary Aldermen;
 - (b) Agree the recognition of Honorary Alderman to those recorded in the report at paragraph 8; and
 - (c) Agree that David Bell and John Turnbull as Honorary Alderman have the requisite link to the City of Durham and year's service to wear a red robe at Mayoral ceremonial events.

Appendix 1: Implications

Legal Implications – Durham County Council is the Principal Council, under the Local Government Act 1972 and is able to confer the title of Honorary Alderman since Local Government Re-Organisation in 2009.

Finance – there are no additional costs for the robes as these are already in supply.

Consultation - None specific within the report.

Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty - None specific within the report.

Climate Change – None specific within the report.

Human Rights - None specific within the report.

Crime and Disorder - None specific within the report.

Staffing – This is an honorary position.

Accommodation - None specific within the report.

Risk – None specific within the report.

Procurement - None specific within the report.