

County Council

6 December 2017



Conferment of the Title of Honorary Aldermen / Honorary Alderwomen

Report of John Hewitt, Corporate Director of Resources

Purpose of the Report

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

Background

- 2 Section 249 of the Local Government Act 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.
- 3 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 sixteen years service as a councillor before becoming eligible for the conferment off the title of Honorary Alderman / Alderwoman.
- 4 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 terms of office shortened as a consequence of changes to local elections due to a foot and mouth outbreak.

Conferment of the Title of Honorary Alderman / Alderwoman

- 5 Thirty nine Members either retired or were not re-elected to the Council at the local government elections in May 2017. Of those, twelve members meet the eligibility criteria referred to above:

Name	District Council Service Years	County Council Service Years	Total Years	Status
Joe Armstrong		15 years 11 months	15 years 11 months	
Jim Cordon		15 years 11 months	15 years 11 months	

Name	District Council Service Years	County Council Service Years	Total Years	Status
Keith Davidson	14	9	23	Granted HA status on abolition of former district council
Neil Foster		20	20	
Barbara Graham	20	9	29	Granted HA status on abolition of former district council
Michele Hodgson	4	16	20	
Grenville Holland	22	9	31	Granted HA status on abolition of former district council
June Lee	26	9	35	
Nigel Martin	6	32	38	
Joan Maslin	30	9	39	
Peter May	15	9	24	Granted HA status on abolition of former district council
Paul Stradling	14	16	30	

- 6 However, of those twelve eligible Members, four 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.
- 7 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; or
 - (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. Recently, Honorary Aldermen / Alderwomen have been invited to participate in the Chairman's Christmas lunch and attend each meeting of the County Council.
- 8 It is proposed that the following eight former members of the Council have conferred upon them the title of Honorary Alderman / Alderwoman:
- (a) Joe Armstrong;
 - (b) Jim Cordon;
 - (c) Neil Foster;
 - (d) Michele Hodgson;
 - (e) June Lee;
 - (f) Nigel Martin;
 - (g) Joan Maslin;
 - (h) Paul Stradling.
- 9 Officers will contact each of the above to ascertain whether they would be prepared to accept the conferment of the titled. Once the titles are conferred, it is proposed that a presentation to the new Honorary Aldermen and Alderwomen be the first item of ordinary business at the Council meeting on 24 January 2018.

Recommendations and Reasons

- 10 It is recommended that Council confers the title of Honorary Alderman / Alderwoman on the following former Councillors once they have indicated that they would be prepared to accept the honorary title:-
- (a) Joe Armstrong;
 - (b) Jim Cordon;
 - (c) Neil Foster;
 - (d) Michele Hodgson;
 - (e) June Lee;
 - (f) Nigel Martin;
 - (g) Joan Maslin;
 - (h) Paul Stradling.

Appendix 1 - Implications

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.

Staffing: None specific within this report

Risk: None specific within this report

Equality and Diversity/Public Sector Equality Duty: None specific within this report – the criteria for conferment have been applied to all eligible members.

Accommodation: None specific within this report

Crime and Disorder: None specific within this report

Human Rights: None specific within this report

Consultation: None specific within this report

Procurement: None specific within this report

Disability Issues: None specific within this report

Legal Implications: - Under Section 249 of the Local Government Act, 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, which were clarified in 2017 to mean service of four full terms.