
Honorary Aldermen Nominations

Committee considering report:	Council
Date of Committee:	20 July 2023
Portfolio Member:	Councillor Jeff Brooks
Date Portfolio Member agreed report:	12 July 2023
Report Author:	Nicola Thomas
Forward Plan Ref:	C4426

1 Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 A number of Councillors have retired or no longer serve for West Berkshire Council and have been nominated by Councillor Ross Mackinnon to be conferred with the title of Honorary Alderman to formally recognise their eminent service to the Council.

2 Recommendation

- 2.1 That the Council confer the title of Honorary Alderman on former Councillors listed in Appendix A for the reasons contained therein.

3 Implications and Impact Assessment

Implication	Commentary
Financial:	Cost of provision of scroll to Honorary Aldermen (and Honorary Alderwoman) provided internally Cost of updating the Board of Honorary Aldermen
Human Resource:	None
Legal:	Local Government Act 1972 (section 249) gives principal councils the powers to confer the title of Honorary Alderman (or Honorary Alderwoman) on persons who have in the opinion of Council provided eminent service to this Council over a long period of time.

Honorary Aldermen Nominations

	Agreed Council 23 September 2011 to ensure that eminent service is recognised formally by the Council			
Risk Management:	Low			
Property:	None			
Policy:	No			
	Positive	Neutral	Negative	Commentary
Equalities Impact:				
A Are there any aspects of the proposed decision, including how it is delivered or accessed, that could impact on inequality?		x		
B Will the proposed decision have an impact upon the lives of people with protected characteristics, including employees and service users?		x		
Environmental Impact:		x		
Health Impact:		x		
ICT Impact:		x		
Digital Services Impact:		x		

Honorary Aldermen Nominations

Council Strategy Priorities:		x		
Core Business:		x		
Data Impact:		x		
Consultation and Engagement:	None			

4 Executive Summary

- 4.1 Following the elections of May 2023, Councillor Ross Mackinnon on 5 June 2023, has nominated Councillors detailed in Appendix A to be nominated as an Honorary Alderman/ Honorary Alderwoman (herein referred to as Honorary Alderman).
- 4.2 The title of Honorary Alderman can only be conferred by a special meeting of the Council convened for the purpose with notice. A special Council meeting has been scheduled to take place on 20 July 2023 (ahead of ordinary Council) to consider those nominated. No other business can be considered at this meeting.
- 4.3 The nominations will need to be proposed and seconded. Two thirds of the Members present at the meeting must vote in favour of a resolution in order to appoint an Honorary Alderman.
- 4.4 The title of Honorary Alderman is conferred to persons who have in the opinion of Council rendered eminent services to West Berkshire Council. There is no definition of eminent services within West Berkshire Council's Constitution or under Local Government Act 1972 but it was agreed in 2011 that they must have:
- (a) Served as a Councillor for a period of time
 - (b) rendered eminent, or notable, service generally or by service as Chairman, or a Chairman of a major Council Committee or holding one or more senior positions on the council
- 4.5 Councillors normal duties are considered as follows:
- (a) represent their communities and bring their views into the Council's decision making process; i.e. become the advocate of and for their communities;
 - (b) effectively represent the interests of their ward and of individual constituents;
 - (c) balance different interests identified within the ward and represent the ward as a whole;
 - (d) participate in the governance and management of the Council;

Honorary Aldermen Nominations

- (e) be available to represent the Council on other bodies; and
 - (f) maintain the highest standards of conduct and ethics.
- 4.6 The title of Honorary Alderman does not confer any special privileges or rights upon the appointee to speak or vote at Council meetings, beyond the rights and privileges already afforded to the public.
- 4.7 Honorary Aldermen do not receive allowances or other payments
- 4.8 Conferring the title of Honorary Alderman on a former Councillor is a prestigious title and should not therefore be used lightly. The role is an honorary one, but to the public an Honorary Alderman is perceived to be a representative of the Council. They need to be aware that they are perceived as a representative of West Berkshire Council and become apolitical in public as members of the public could interpret any views expressed as views of the Council. Aldermen are not to speak on behalf of the Council in any way whatsoever.
- 4.9 If the motion is passed, the Honorary Alderman will be presented with a certificate confirming their title by the Chairman at the Special Council meeting and will be given an opportunity to speak. Honorary Aldermen (or Honorary Alderwomen) are noted on a Board located outside the Council Chamber.

5 Supporting Information

- 5.1 The supporting information detailing the Councillors service that is considered to be eminent in nature is detailed in Appendix A

6 Other options considered

- 6.1 It is open for Council to provide former Members who do not qualify for the title of Honorary Alderman to have their service recognised by the presentation of a certificate and/ or paper weight at the Annual Meeting of Council.
- 6.2 It is not felt this reflects the eminent service provided by those nominated.
- 6.3 Council have the option not to appoint any Honorary Aldermen. This would not formally recognise former Councillors who have provided eminent service to this Council over a long period of time.

7 Conclusion

- 7.1 Special Council scheduled on 20 July 2023 shall consider the motions proposed by Councillor Ross Mackinnon appointing titles of Honorary Alderman (or Honorary Alderwoman) to those detailed in Appendix A.

8 Appendices

- 8.1 Appendix A list of nominated Councillors with details of eminent service (To Follow)

Subject to Call-In:

Yes: No: x

The item is due to be referred to Council for final approval	x
Delays in implementation could have serious financial implications for the Council	<input type="checkbox"/>
Delays in implementation could compromise the Council's position	<input type="checkbox"/>
Considered or reviewed by Scrutiny Commission or associated Committees, Task Groups within preceding six months	<input type="checkbox"/>
Item is Urgent Key Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
Report is to note only	<input type="checkbox"/>

Officer details:

Name: Nicola Thomas
Job Title: Service Lead Legal & Democratic
Tel No: 07717747874
E-mail: Nicola.Thomas1@westberks.gov.uk
