

Council

Honorary Aldermen and Freemen

16 May 2012

Report of Chief Executive

PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to allow members to consider whether they wish to adopt a scheme for the appointment of Honorary Aldermen/ Alderwomen and Freemen/ Freewomen.

This report is public

Recommendations

The Council is recommended:

- (1) To consider whether it wishes to appoint Honorary Aldermen/ Alderwomen and Freemen/ Freewomen.

Details

The Chairman has requested a report to this Council giving details of the honours which the Council, if it agrees, has the power to bestow:

- Honorary Alderman/ Alderwomen – for past Councillors who have given eminent service to the Council.
- Honorary Freeman/ Freewomen – a person of distinction who has given eminent service to the district

The power to appoint Honorary Alderman/ Alderwomen and Honorary Freemen/ Freewomen is contained within Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972.

The Section also provides that the following people may be admitted to be Honorary Freemen/ Freewomen:

“persons of distinction and persons who have, in the opinion of the Council, rendered eminent services to the district.”

The title of Honorary Alderman/ Alderwomen can only be conferred on:

“persons who have, in the opinion of the Council, rendered eminent services to the Council as past members of that Council, but who are not then Councillors of the Council.”

In order to appoint Honorary Alderman/ Alderwomen and Honorary Freeman/ Freewomen the Council must approve a new procedure.

Procedure for Appointing Honorary Alderman/ Alderwomen and Honorary Freeman/ Freewomen

Serving councillors may make nominations of individuals who have given eminent service to the Council (Alderman/ Alderwomen) and/or district (Freeman/ Freewomen). All nominations will be assessed by the Chairman and the Leader of the Council in consultation with the Chief Executive who then submit their recommendations to the Council.

The nomination process is undertaken in strict confidence. Details are only made public when the Council is asked to support the nomination and the proposed recipient agrees to accept the award.

The resolution to appoint to these positions has to be passed by at least 2/3 majority of members present at a specially convened meeting.

The resolution should recite the particular grounds upon which the Council have come to their decision.

Role and Privileges

Honorary Freeman/ Freewomen and Honorary Alderman/ Alderwomen would receive the following privileges:

- The name of the recipient is inscribed on a roll of honour at the Council Offices.
- A formal ceremony is held at which the recipient is presented with a Scroll.
- A seat will be made available in the Aldermen and Freeman’s Gallery at meetings of full Council.
- An invitation to major Council events and ceremonies including Annual Council
- An electronic copy of the Members Bulletin
- Access to the members car park and members room at Bodicote House

Key Issues for Consideration/Reasons for Decision and Options

The following options have been identified. The approach in the recommendations is believed to be the best way forward

- Option One** Accept the recommendations as drafted
- Option Two** Amend the recommendations
- Option Three** Reject the recommendations

Implications

- Financial:** Any ensuing modest cost could be met from existing budgets and would not be such as to merit an objection to the introduction of the scheme.
Comments checked by Sarah Best, Service Accountant, 01295 221982
- Legal:** The process of appointing honorary aldermen/women and freemen/women is prescribed by section 249 of the Local Government Act 1092 and is set out above.
Comments checked by Kevin Lane, Head of Law and Governance, 0300 0030107
- Risk Management:** There are no risks arising directly from this report.
Comments checked by James Doble, Democratic and Elections Manager 01295 22158

Wards Affected

All

Document Information

Appendix No	Title
None	
Background Papers	
None	
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