

**NEWCASTLE-UNDER-LYME BOROUGH COUNCIL****REPORT TO COUNCIL****4<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2014****1. HONORARY ALDERMEN****Submitted by:           Head of Business Improvement, Central Services and Partnerships****Ward(s) affected:           All****Purpose of the Report**

To ask the Council to consider whether to adopt the principle of conferring the title of Honorary Alderman on persons who have, in the opinion of the Council, rendered eminent services to the Council as past Members of the Council, but who are no longer serving Members of the Council.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

**That Council agrees to the principle of conferring of the title of Honorary Alderman on persons who meet the criteria.**

**Reasons**

The conferring of these honorary titles is to recognise the achievement and the service rendered to the Council and the community by past Members.

**1. Background**

- 1.1 Under Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972, a principal council may confer the title of Honorary Alderman 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 Members of the Council. It is a number of years since the Council last exercised its power to appoint Honorary Aldermen.
- 1.2 Any such appointment must be made by a resolution passed by not less than two thirds of the members voting thereon at a special meeting of the Council convened for that purpose. Thus, the title can only be conferred upon past members of the Council who are not councillors at the date of that meeting.
- 1.3 Should an Honorary Alderman subsequently become a member of the Council they would not be entitled to be addressed as alderman or to attend or take part in any civic ceremonies of the Council as an alderman during their term as a councillor.
- 1.4 Honorary Alderman are entitled to attend and take part in such civic ceremonies as the Council may from time to time decide. They do not have any specific right to participate in the ordinary business of the Council. An Honorary Alderman does not have the right to allowances which are payable to councillors.
- 1.5 The criteria set out in the Local Government Act 1972 for the appointment of Honorary Aldermen require that they be:

- (a) persons of distinction, and
- (b) persons who have, in the opinion of the authority, rendered eminent services to that place or area.

2. Proposal

That Council may wish to adopt the principle of conferring the title of Honorary Alderman on persons who meet the criteria. If the Council were to agree to this proposal, Group Leaders should be asked by the Chief Executive to forward names and a supporting citation of candidates whom they consider meet the criteria. It is proposed that a Special Meeting is convened immediately preceding the Council meeting scheduled for 16 July 2014 to consider the appointment of Honorary Aldermen.

4. Legal and Statutory Implications

The process should be conducted in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act 1972 as set out in the report. There are no other legal or statutory implications flowing from this process.

5. Equality Impact Assessment

No differential impact has been identified.

6. Major Risks

There are no major risks associated with this process.

7. Financial Implications

No significant financial resources will be required in relation to the recommendation and any costs would be contained within existing approved budgets.

8. Key Decision Information

This is not a key decision.

9. Earlier Cabinet/Committee Resolutions

There are none.

10. Background papers

Local Government Act 1972, Section 249.