



Council
18 July 2023

WORTHING BOROUGH COUNCIL

Ward(s) Affected: All

Motion on Notice

Report by the Director for Sustainability & Resources

Officer Contact Details:-

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Executive Summary

1. Purpose

- 1.1. The report before Council sets out a motion received from Councillor Samuel Theodoridi which has been seconded by Councillor Dale Overton.
- 1.1. Council is asked to consider, debate and determine the motion under the provisions set out in Paragraph 14 of the Council Procedure Rules (part 4 of the Council Constitution - Rules of Procedure).

2. Recommendations

- 2.1. The Council is asked to determine the motion as set out in Annex A to this report.

3. Context

- 3.1 A motion on notice has been received from Councillor Samuel Theodoridi, (attached as Annex A).
- 3.2 The content of the motion is relevant to a matter in relation to which the Council has powers or duties and which specifically affects the Borough.

4. Issues for consideration

- 4.1 Motions considered by Full Council are done so under part 14 of the Council's Procedure Rules and are debated under rules set out under part 16 of the Council Procedure Rules.
- 4.2 The Council is asked to consider, debate and determine the motion under these rules accordingly.

5. Financial Implications

- 5.1 There are very minor financial implications associated with this motion. Specifically, savings in relation to the convening of Special Council meetings, the accompanying meeting agenda packs and the commemorative scroll presented to the conferred recipient.

6. Legal Implications

- 6.1 Rules concerning motions are set out in the Council's Constitution under section 14 of the Council's Procedure Rules.

Background Papers

None.

Motion to end the Honorary Alderman/Alderwoman Scheme

Worthing Borough Council has an ambitious agenda for changing the way that we work with our residents. Working effectively in partnership and co-production with our communities, our citizens and our partners is the only way in which these aims can be realised to their full extent. The Council's long-term ambition is therefore to, wherever possible, pass power and control over what happens within communities, to communities, making them stronger and more resilient in the long term.

In recent years several councils have voted to remove some of the traditions that they feel place a barrier between themselves and their residents. Worthing Borough Council believes that the Honorary Alderman/Alderwoman scheme is incompatible with this modernisation agenda, is outdated and sends out the wrong message to the public. We believe that a more fitting way can be found to recognise public contribution, extending beyond councillors, former councillors and mayors to residents of all ages and backgrounds who make a significant civic contribution to their communities and to our Borough. We therefore resolve to

- Make no further appointments under the Council's Honorary Alderman/Alderwoman scheme and therefore ask officers to remove this scheme from its constitution.
- Allow existing holders of this title to continue to use it if they so wish, but not provide any special recognition or treatment for them that is not offered to other former members of the council.
- That those councillors who are currently eligible for Alderman/Alderwoman status can receive it at the end of their term of office should they choose to do so. After this there will be no further conferment of the title.

Proposer - Councillor Samuel Theodoridi

Seconder - Councillor Dale Overton