



ADUR & WORTHING  
COUNCILS

Joint Governance Committee  
29 July 2021  
Agenda Item 8

Ward(s) Affected: All Worthing

**Conferment of Honorary Alderman - Paul Baker**

**Report by the Interim Director for Communities**

**Executive Summary**

**1. Purpose**

- 1.1. To consider conferring the title of Honorary Alderman of the Borough of Worthing, on former Mayor Paul Baker, who is no longer a member of the Council.

**2. Recommendations**

- 2.1. The Joint Governance Committee is invited to consider the granting of the Honorary Aldermanship of the Borough of Worthing to former Mayor Paul Baker.
- 2.2. If Committee agrees 2.1 above, then to make the following recommendation to Worthing Borough Council:

*That a special meeting of the Council be arranged under section 249(1) of the Local Government Act for the specific purpose of conferring the title of 'Honorary Alderman' to Paul Baker.*

### **3. Context**

- 3.1. It is the tradition of Worthing Borough Council that when a former Mayor retires from the Council as an elected representative (a Councillor), or, is defeated at the elections, they are recommended for appointment as Honorary Alderman / Alderwoman of the Borough.
- 3.2. Section 249 (1) of the Local Government Act, 1972, provides the following criteria for honorary Alderman / honorary Alderwoman, namely:

*“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.”*

- 3.3. Councils can decide their own criteria or tradition for the conferment of the honorary title.
- 3.4. These appointments are honorary in nature so the persons appointed to the office do not carry out Council duties or have a vote.
- 3.5. Honorary Alderwomen / Aldermen may attend and take part in civic ceremonies as invited but will not have the right to participate in meetings of the Council, or to receive any allowances or payments under section 173 to 176 of the Local Government Act 1972.

### **4. Issues for consideration**

- 4.1. The Joint Governance Committee is invited to consider the granting of the Honorary Aldermanship of the Borough of Worthing to former Mayor Paul Baker.
- 4.2. Former Mayor of the Borough, Paul Baker, retired from the Council in May 2021.
- 4.3. Paul Baker represented the Broadwater Ward from 2016 to 2021 and was Mayor of the Borough in 2018/19.

## **5. Financial Implications**

- 5.1. It is customary to present a Scroll commemorating the conferment and to hold a small reception, to celebrate the granting of Honorary Aldermanship after the Special Council Meeting; expenditure for which would be contained within the existing budget for Council refreshments.

## **6. Legal Implications**

- 6.1. The power to appoint Honorary Alderman is contained within Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended.
- 6.2. 'A principal Council may, by a resolution passed by not less than two thirds of the Members voting thereon, at a meeting of the Council specially convened for the purpose with notice of the object, 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'.
- 6.3. Each Council can decide its own criteria or tradition for the appointment, the criteria for Worthing Borough Council was approved in December 2013 and is attached as Annex A.

### **Local Government Act 1972**

#### **Background Papers:**

None.

#### **Officer Contact Details:-**

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## **Sustainability & Risk Assessment**

### **1. Economic**

Matter considered, no matters arising.

### **2. Social**

#### **2.1 Social Value**

Matter considered, no matters arising.

#### **2.2 Equality Issues**

All former Mayors who are no longer members of the Borough Council are considered for conferment of the honorary title 'Alderman/Alderwoman'.

#### **2.3 Community Safety Issues (Section 17)**

Matter considered, no matters arising.

#### **2.4 Human Rights Issues**

Matter considered, no matters arising.

### **3. Environmental**

Matter considered, no matters arising.

### **4. Governance**

The reputation of the Borough Council's tradition of honouring past Mayors would be questioned if a past Mayor was not considered as an Honorary Alderman / Alderwoman.

**Criteria for 'eminent service' in the appointment of Honorary Alderman or Honorary Alderwomen**

Definition of 'Eminent' - well-known, renowned, important, distinguished, famous, celebrated, prominent, outstanding, reputed (Thesaurus).

When considering the conferment of the title 'Honorary Alderman' or 'Honorary Alderwoman' on a past member of the Council who was not a past Mayor, then each of the following four criteria should apply:

Past Councillor:

(A) No longer serving on the Council:

1. Must have made a conscious decision to retire from the position of councillor on the council rather than resign from the position or be defeated at an election.
2. In circumstances of resignation or defeat at an election, 4 years should elapse before consideration for conferment of the honour.

And:

(B) Service on the Council:

1. The nominee should have served more than 12 years on Worthing Borough Council, being at least 3 consecutive election wins for the same ward

And:

(C) Community representative:

1. Should have known record of eminent – special service to the Borough that can be demonstrated by their public service on the Council and by their service to the residents of Worthing through their social role in charity or non-remunerated work in the community or in a special interest role

And:

(D) Either:

1. Held a position on the council in one of the following categories for at least 6 years:
  - a. Leader of the Council
  - b. Cabinet member

c. Chairman of a Committee

d. A group leader

(6 years is chosen as it covers a period of time covering at least two election cycles)

Or:

2. The Council acknowledges that there is likely to be an occasion when a recommendation for this honour does not meet the criteria it has adopted. In these circumstances the nomination should be supported by at least two representatives from two different parties in the Council chamber at the time of the nomination. In making the nomination to the Proper Officer of the Council, a supporting statement from these two representatives showing how the nominee meets the spirit of the four criteria should be presented.