



Joint Governance Committee
27 September 2022

ADUR & WORTHING COUNCILS

Ward(s) Affected: None

Conferment of Honorary Aldermen and Honorary Alderwomen

Report by the Director for Communities

Executive Summary

1. Purpose

- 1.1. To approve a protocol in relation to the conferment of Honorary Aldermen and Honorary Alderwomen at Adur District Council (ADC).
- 1.2. To recommend to the Full Council of ADC the conferring of the title of Honorary Alderwoman to Liza McKinney and Debbie Kennard the title of Honorary Alderman to Brian Boggis and Geoff Howitt

2. Recommendations

- 2.1. To consider and approve The Appointment of Honorary Aldermen and Honorary Alderwomen Protocol at Appendix A.
- 2.2. To recommend to the Full Council of ADC the conferring of the title of Honorary Alderwoman to Liza McKinney and Debbie Kennard. The title of Honorary Alderman to Brian Boggis and Geoff Howitt
- 2.3. If Committee agrees 2.2 above, then to make the following recommendation to Adur District Council:

That a special meeting of the Council be arranged under section 249(1) of the Local Government Act 1972 for the specific purpose of conferring the titles of Honorary Alderwoman to Liza McKinney and

3. Context

- 3.1. Section 249(1) of the Local Government Act 1972 provides the following criteria for conferring the Honorary titles of Alderman and 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.”

- 3.2. Councils can determine their own criteria for the conferment of the honorary title.
- 3.3. These appointments are honorary in nature so the persons appointed to the office do not carry out Council duties or have a vote.
- 3.4. Honorary Alderwomen/Aldermen may attend and take part in civic ceremonies as the council may from time to time decide, but shall not have the right to attend meetings of the council or a committee of the council (including a joint committee upon which they are represented), or to receive any allowances or payments under section 173 to 176 of the Local Government Act 1972.
- 3.5. A council may spend such reasonable sum as it thinks fit for the purpose of presenting an address, or a casket containing an address, to a person on whom they have conferred the title of honorary alderman or honorary alderwoman.
- 3.6. Adur has not conferred the title in the past but officers have been asked to investigate the issue.
- 3.7. Elected Members receive little in the way of recompense for the commitments and sacrifices they make for their work as councillors. The conferment of Aldermanship is a good way to receive recognition from peers for those who have given eminent service to the Council and their local communities.

- 3.8. Conferment of the title gives an opportunity to formally recognise the good work done by former councillors and promotes the benefits of community leadership provided by those Members.
- 3.9. Councils that confer the title of Honorary Alderman and Honorary Alderwoman often do so with a protocol and set of criteria for appointment. The protocols of other authorities have been used to develop a draft protocol for Adur District Council.
- 3.10. Group Leaders have been consulted on the contents of this report.

4. Issues for consideration

- 4.1. The Joint Governance Committee is invited to consider the process of appointing Honorary Alderwomen and Honorary Aldermen for the District of Adur.
- 4.2. The Joint Governance Committee is invited to consider the granting of such Honorary titles to
 - 4.2.1. Former Councillor Liza McKinney retired from the Council in May 2016. Councillor McKinney represented the Marine ward from May 2000 to May 2016 and was Chair of the Council in 2002-2003 and 2003-2004.
 - 4.2.2. Former Councillor Debbie Kennard retired from the Council in May 2016. Cllr Kennard represented the Buckingham ward from May 2003 to May 2016 and was Chair of the Council in 2010-11.
 - 4.2.3. Former Councillor Brian Boggis retired from the Council in May 2022. Cllr Boggis represented the Peverel ward from May 2004 to May 2022 and was Chair of the Council in 2011-12.
 - 4.2.4. Former Councillor Geoff Howitt retired from the Council in May 2004. Cllr Howitt represented the St. Mary's ward from May 1995 to May 2003 and was Chair of the Council in 1999 to 2000.

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 the Honorary title 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, an suggested criteria for appointment is attached as Annex A

Local Government Act 1972

Background Papers:

None.

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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

Matter considered, no matters arising

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

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

Nominations for conferment of Honorary Alderman or Honorary Alderwoman will be considered by the Joint Governance Committee and Council at the next available meetings when an application is made by a political group leader along with reasons why it is felt that the criteria have been met.

When considering the conferment of the title Honorary Alderman or Honorary Alderwoman on a past member of the Council, then each of the following four criteria should apply:

1. Past Councillor:

(A) No longer serving on the Council:

- (i) 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.
- (ii) In circumstances of resignation or defeat at an election, 4 years should elapse before consideration for conferment of the honour.

And:

2. Service on the Council:

- (i) The nominee should have served more than 12 years on Adur District Council, being at least 3 consecutive election wins.

And:

3. Community representative:

- (i) Should have a known record of eminent and special service to the District that can be demonstrated by their public service on the Council and by their service to the residents of Adur through their social role in charity or non-remunerated work in the community or in a special interest role.

And:

4. Either:

(i) 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. Chair of the Council or a Committee
- d. A political group leader

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

Or:

(ii) 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 three representatives from two different political groups in the Council chamber at the time of the nomination. In making the nomination, a supporting statement should be presented by these three representatives showing how the nominee meets the four criteria.