

DECISION ITEM



REPORT OF		MEETING	DATE	ITEM NO
DIRECTOR OF RESOURCES		FINANCE AND DEMOCRACY COMMITTEE	30 NOVEMBER 2015	8

NOTICE OF MOTION – HONORARY ALDERMAN

PUBLIC ITEM

This item is for consideration in the public part of the meeting.

SUMMARY

At the Council meeting held on 12 October 2015, Councillor Hayhurst put forward a notice of motion regarding Honorary Alderman. The motion was referred to the Finance and Democracy Committee for further discussion and consideration.

RECOMMENDATION

1. To consider one of the following options:
 - (a) Refer the notice of motion back to Council with a recommendation or number of recommendations; or
 - (b) For the committee to determine the notice of motion itself

CORPORATE PRIORITIES

To Promote the Enhancement of The Natural & Built Environment (Place)		To Encourage Cohesive Communities (People)	√
To Promote a Thriving Economy (Prosperity)		To Meet Expectations of our Customers (Performance)	

SUMMARY OF PREVIOUS DECISIONS

The Policy and Resources Committee meeting held on 27 September 1999 RESOLVED the following:

“That the Council’s primary, but not sole, criterion for candidature for the conferment of the title of Honorary Alderman be 20 years past service (in aggregate) to the Council and that, subject to the concurrence of the candidate, the Chief Executive be authorised to give notice of the proposal to pass the necessary special resolution in the case of those past members who subsequently satisfy the primary criterion. “

REPORT

1. The Council currently confers the title of Honorary Alderman on retiring members in accordance with Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972, which refers to eminent service, the precise wording of the Act can be found at Appendix 1, and the additional criteria of 20 years aggregate service as determined by the Policy and Resources Committee on 27 September 1999.
2. Conferment of the title is determined by two-thirds of the Council at a special meeting, with the recipient receiving an illuminated address at a special presentation evening. The title Honorary Alderman confers no powers, but Honorary Alderman are traditionally invited to attend civic events such as Annual Council and Remembrance Sunday.
3. At the Council meeting held on 12 October 2015, Councillor Hayhurst put forward the following notice of motion:
“That the Council practice of inviting retiring members who have completed 20 years of service or more to become Honorary Aldermen, be extended to include retiring members with less than 20 years service but who have previously served as Mayor of the Borough.”
4. During the course of the debate the following amendment was put forward by Councillor Ed Nash, and accepted by the council:
“That the motion be referred to the appropriate committee for further discussion and determination, and return to this Council, as necessary.”
5. Following the meeting of the Council, neighbouring authorities were asked what, if any procedures and criteria were in place for honouring past members of the council. The responses are appended at Appendix 2. These findings are merely to assist members in their discussions.
6. Finance and Committee is the appropriate committee and it is for the committee to determine how to proceed with this notice of motion.

IMPLICATIONS	
Finance	There are no financial implications to the recommendations set out in this report.
Legal	None arising directly from this report.
Community Safety	None arising directly from this report.
Human Rights and Equalities	None arising directly from this report.
Sustainability and Environmental Impact	None arising directly from this report.
Health & Safety and Risk Management	None arising directly from this report.

LEAD AUTHOR	TEL	DATE	DOC ID
Tracy Morrison	01253 658521	19 October 2015	

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS
None

Attached documents

1. Section 249, Local Government Act 1972
2. Procedures and criteria from other North West authorities regarding Honorary Alderman

Section 249 Local Government Act 1972

(1) 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 aldermen or honorary alderwomen 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.

(2) No honorary alderman or honorary alderwoman shall, while serving as a member of the council, be entitled to be addressed as alderman or alderwoman or to attend or take part in any civic ceremonies of the council as an alderman or alderwoman.

(3) Services rendered to the council of an existing county, county borough, borough or urban or rural district the area of which becomes wholly or partly included in a new county or district shall be treated for the purposes of subsection (1) above as services rendered to the council of the new county or district, as the case may be.

(4) An honorary alderman or honorary alderwoman of a principal council may attend and take part in such civic ceremonies as the council may from time to time decide, but shall not, as such, have the right—

(a) to attend meetings of the council or a committee of the council (including a joint committee upon which they are represented); or

(b) to receive any such allowances or other payments as are payable under sections 173 to 176 above.

(4A) A principal council may spend such reasonable sum as they think 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.

Local Authority	Honorary Alderman	Criteria	notes
Blackpool	N		
Blackburn	N		
Burnley	Y	Eminent service + 15 yrs	Significant service to the local area, especially voluntary. Must be of good character. Then considered by Member Structures Working Group who will consult group leaders and the Mayor before taking the decision to council.
Chorley	N		
Hyndburn	Y	Eminent service +12 yrs (see note)	Those members who have held title of Mayor, Mayoress, Leader of the Council or Leader of the Opposition will be considered if they do not have 12yrs service
LCC	Y	Eminent service + yrs service (see note)	2011 – 20 yrs service, 2014 – minimum 16 yrs service No formal mechanism but discussion with CE and group leaders
Lancaster	Y	Eminent Service + 15yrs	
Pendle	Y	Eminent Service only	No formal mechanism
Preston	Y	Eminent service + 15 yrs (unless exceptional circumstances)	Request from group leader to CE is considered by Honours Task Group and MO.
Ribble Valley	Y	Eminent service + 20yrs	
Rossendale	Y	Eminent service only	
South Ribble	N		
West Lancs	Y	Eminent service only	No formal mechanism, just a conversation with group leaders
Wyre	Y	Eminent service + 16yrs	