

**HAMBLETON DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**Report To:** Audit, Governance and Standards Committee  
30 October 2013

**From:** Director of Corporate Services

**Subject:** **APPOINTMENT OF ALDERMEN**

All Wards

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**1.0 BACKGROUND:**

1.1 The Council's Constitution makes provision for the appointment of Honorary Aldermen. This normally takes place following the election of a new Council.

1.2 This report asks the Committee to consider arrangements for the appointment of Honorary Aldermen and make recommendations to Council.

**2.0 CURRENT PRACTICE AND CRITERIA:**

2.1 The authority to award the title comes from the Local Government Act 1972. Honorary Aldermen must, under the Act, be people who in the Council's opinion have rendered "eminent service" to the Council as past Members, but are no longer Councillors at the time of conferment. There is no definition in the Act of what constitutes "eminent service", but it is clear that it is service to the Council rather than to the community or other authorities.

2.2 The criteria for appointment of Aldermen and the procedure for selection has varied over the years and has included direct recommendation by the Leader of the Council, recommendation by a Working Group and more recently a request at Council for nominations.

2.3 The most recent criteria used for consideration are:-

- long service of a minimum of 16 years membership of the Council;
- service to the authority through a significant office;
- a declared intention on the part of the recipient that he/she has permanently retired from service as a Member of the Council.

**3.0 PROPOSED CRITERIA AND PROCEDURES:**

3.1 It may now be appropriate to reconsider the Council's approach to the appointment of Honorary Aldermen in the light of the move in 2015 to 28 Councillors. There are likely to be a significant number of Councillors who retire at that time and the Council may wish to consider some or all for the position of Honorary Alderman.

3.2 The process for recommending the appointment of Aldermen has in the past involved a Working Group of Members. This seems a reasonable approach to discussing the merits of potential candidates. It is therefore recommended that this process be maintained in the

future and that from time to time the Chief Executive, at the request of the Leader, form a Working Group made up of one Member nominated by each political group plus the Leader and Deputy Leader of the Council.

3.3 It is normal practice for certain criteria to be used before people become eligible as Honorary Aldermen. The Chairman of the Committee has suggested the following for consideration:-

- a candidate will only be considered if they have:-

served at least five consecutive full terms (a minimum of 20 years); or

served at least four consecutive full terms (a minimum of 16 years) and served as Chairman of at least two Committees or been a Member of the Cabinet during that period.

3.4 Those fulfilling the above criteria will be considered by the Working Group and the following principles will be applied:-

- the award be non-political and recognise the personal contribution made by the Councillor;
- the award recognise an outstanding contribution to the work of the Council.

3.5 The Working Group will then make recommendations to Full Council which will have the final say on the appointment of Aldermen.

#### **4.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS:**

4.1 Only the Full Council can appoint, but recommendations can be made by a Sub-Committee or Working Group.

#### **5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:**

5.1 There are no financial implications of this report.

#### **6.0 RECOMMENDATION:**

6.1 It is recommended that the criteria and procedure for the appointment of Honorary Aldermen be as set out in Section 3.

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**Background papers:** None

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