

## **HAMBLETON DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**Report To:** Council  
21 July 2015

**From:** Chief Executive

**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 Council to consider the recommendations of the Member Working Group and arrangements for the appointment of Honorary Aldermen.

### **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 used for consideration are that nominees must 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.

### **3.0 PROCEDURES:**

- 3.1 The process for recommending the appointment of Aldermen involves a Working Group of Members. This has been deemed a reasonable approach to discussing the merits of potential candidates. The Chief Executive, at the request of the Leader, has convened a Working Group made up of one Member nominated by each political group plus the Leader and Deputy Leader of the Council as specified in the Council's Constitution.
- 3.2 Those fulfilling the criteria have been considered by the Working Group and the following principles 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.
- 3.3 The procedure stipulates that the Working Group will make recommendations to Council which will determine the appointment of Aldermen.

**4.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS:**

4.1 Only 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:-

- (1) Council considers the recommendations of the Working Group for the appointment of Honorary Aldermen; and
- (2) a special meeting of the Council be arranged to confer the title of Honorary Alderman of the District of Hambleton on past Members who have rendered eminent service to the Council.

PHILLIP MORTON

**Background papers:** None  
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Chief Executive