

Hambleton District Council

Report To: Council
18 October 2022

From: Chief Executive

Subject: **Appointment of Honorary Aldermen**

Wards Affected: All Wards

Scrutiny Committee

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 Practice and Criteria

- 2.1 Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972 ("the Act") enables the Council to confer the title of Honorary Alderman on those who in the Council's opinion have rendered "eminent service" to the Council as past Members and who are no longer Councillors at the time of conferment. The Act contains no definition of what constitutes "eminent service", but it is clear it means service to the Council rather than to the community or other authorities.
- 2.2 Regulation 32 of the Local Government (Structural Changes) (Transitional Arrangements) (No.2) Regulations 2008, amended the Act and enables a Council that is to be dissolved as a result of local government reorganisation to elect not only past Members as Honorary Alderman but also serving Members. Honorary Alderman of a dissolved council become on the reorganisation date Honorary Alderman of the successor single-tier council. However, no Honorary Alderman shall, whilst serving as a Member of the single-tier authority, be entitled to be addressed as Alderman or to attend or take part in any civic ceremonies of that council as an Alderman.
- 2.3 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 is a reasonable and appropriate forum for discussing the merits of potential candidates. The Chief Executive, at the request of the Leader, convened a Working Group made up of one Member nominated by each political group plus the Deputy Leader of the Council.
- 3.2 Those fulfilling the eligibility 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 recognises 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 Recommendations of the Working Group

- 4.1 The Working Group comprising Councillors P Atkin, P Thompson and P R Wilkinson met on Tuesday, 28 June 2022 and recommended that Councillors David Webster, Mark Robson, Brian Phillips and Mrs Bridget Fortune, be conferred with the title of Honorary Alderman at a special meeting of Council convened for this purpose.

5.0 Legal Implications

- 5.1 Recommendations for Honorary Alderman can be made by a Sub-Committee or Working Group. However, it is only the Council that can confer the title provided a resolution is passed by not less than two-thirds of the Members voting at a meeting of the Council specially convened for the purpose.

6.0 Equality/Diversity Issues

- 6.1 Equality and Diversity Issues have been considered. However, there are no issues associated with this report.

7.0 Financial Implications

- 7.1 There are no financial implications associated of this report.

8.0 Recommendation

- 8.1 It is recommended that: -

- (1) Council considers and approves the recommendations of the Working Group for the appointment of Honorary Alderman; and

- (2) a special meeting of the Council be arranged to confer the title of Honorary Alderman of the District of Hambleton upon Councillors David Webster, Mark Robson, Brian Phillips and Mrs Bridget Fortune.

Dr Justin Ives
Chief Executive

Background papers: None

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