

EAST HERTS COUNCIL

COUNCIL – 21 FEBRUARY 2007

REPORT BY HEAD OF DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

10. HONORARY ALDERMEN

WARD(S) AFFECTED: All

'D' RECOMMENDATION – that the procedure detailed in the report now submitted for the award of the title of Honorary Alderman be approved.

1.0 Purpose of report

1.1 To approve a policy relating to the award of the title of Honorary Alderman.

2.0 Contribution to the Council's Corporate Objectives

2.1 The award of such a title will help strengthen the civic identity of the Authority thus contributing to the objective to "improve the health and sustainability of the organisation".

3.0 Background

3.1 Under the provisions of section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972, Council may confer the title of Honorary Alderman on any person who, in the opinion of the Council, has rendered eminent services to the Authority as a past Member. The award is subject to a resolution passed not less than two thirds of the Members present at a meeting specially convened for that purpose.

3.2 Council has previously conferred the title of Honorary Alderman to Miss Lilian Lloyd Taylor at a special meeting held in May 1991. Sadly, Miss Lloyd Taylor is deceased.

4.0 Proposal

4.1 There is no formal procedure to appoint Honorary Aldermen. A formal

procedure would ensure a degree of transparency to any system to award this title to former Councillors.

4.2 Each case to receive an award must be considered on its merits. Research has revealed that many local authorities use a criteria relating to length of service. Accordingly, the following procedure is recommended:

- (A) an offer of appointment to Honorary Alderman only be considered in respect of former Members who have served a minimum of five full terms of office;
- (B) former Members who qualify under paragraph (A) above be informally asked within four weeks of the date of their retirement from the Council (or as soon as practicable following the introduction of this process) whether or not they wish to be considered for this award;
- (C) the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader of the Council and the Chairman of the Council, be authorised to determine whether a person under consideration for this award has rendered eminent services to the Council when they were a Member;
- (D) an extraordinary Council meeting be convened on a date to be determined between the Chairman of the Council and the person(s) being awarded the title of Honorary Alderman to consider a motion under section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972.

5.0 The role of Honorary Alderman

5.1 A formal presentation of a certificate of title will be made to the person(s) receiving the award at the extraordinary meeting. In addition, Honorary Aldermen:

- (A) will be encouraged to attend all Civic Ceremonial events when invited;
- (B) with the Chairman's permission, may assist in hosting receptions/functions;
- (C) will be encouraged to support the work of the Chairman's Charity, and

(D) will promote civic pride in the District of East Hertfordshire and its Council.

6.0 Legal Implications

6.1 None

7.0 Financial Implications

7.1 None

8.0 Human Resources Implications

8.1 None

9.0 Risk Management Implications

9.1 None

10.0 Conclusion

10.1 Council is invited to adopt a formal process for the appointment of an Honorary Alderman. Based on the suggested process, existing Councillors Banks, Barnes, Copping, Gilbert, Parker, Peek, Poulton, Ranger and Ruffles would be eligible for the award should they not stand for re-election in 2007. Similarly, there are a number of former Councillors who also qualify (F Clay, C Hodson-Smith, J Reynolds, H Sargent, J Sartin and W Stripling). In both instances qualification is just the first step as the Authority must satisfy itself that the person has rendered eminent services to the Council when they were a Member.

Background Papers

None.

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