

## **CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT - SCHEME FOR THE ENROLMENT OF HONORARY ALDERMEN OR ALDERWOMEN**

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**Wards Affected:** No wards are directly affected by this report.

### ***PROPOSED DECISION***

***Members are requested to agree that:***

- 1) The enrolment should be in accordance with the Council's Scheme for the Enrolment of Honorary Aldermen set out in Part 1 H of the Constitution (the Scheme) save that:***
  - a) In accordance with regulation 32 of the Local Government (Structural Changes) (Transitional Arrangements) No. 2 Regulations 2008 the prohibition on serving members of Wycombe District Council be waived***
  - b) The requirement on the Chief Executive to refer the nominations to a Council meeting for agreement prior to this Special Meeting be waived.***
  - c) The limitation on the number of current enrolments be waived to allow for the enrolment of up to 11 new Honorary Aldermen or Alderwomen.***
  
- 2) That in accordance with Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972, and the Scheme, subject to the waivers detailed above, the title of Honorary Alderman or Honorary Alderwoman as appropriate be conferred upon:-**

Councillor Mike Appleyard  
Councillor Sebert Graham  
Councillor Alan Hill  
Councillor Mrs Audrey Jones  
Councillor Hugh McCarthy  
Councillor John Savage  
Councillor David Shakespeare  
Councillor Mrs Jean Teesdale  
Councillor Nigel Teesdale  
Councillor Roger Wilson and  
Former Councillor Mrs Janet Riddington

***In recognition and appreciation of their exceptional service to Local Government as a Member of Wycombe District Council.***

### **Corporate Implications**

- 1 Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972 permits the Council to draw up a scheme for the enrolment of Honorary Aldermen. The Scheme does not provide for a situation in which the Council ceases to exist. It is therefore proposed to suspend certain provisions within the scheme to allow for the current situation.
- 2 The Scheme provides for a certificate and badge to be given to each new Honorary Alderman or Alderwoman. The cost of this can be met from within the existing Members' Services budget.
- 3 It is not considered that these proposals present any risk to the Council.

### **Background**

4. The Scheme provides that no person may be deemed eligible to become an Honorary Alderman or Alderwoman unless he or she:
  - is no longer serving as a Member of Wycombe District Council
  - has served as a Member of the District Council, and/or its former constituent authorities for at least 15 years in total
  - has given exceptional service during that period
  - is not a serving member on another authority
5. Even if fulfilling the above criteria, enrolment is not automatic, but requires a specific resolution of Council, passed at a meeting convened specially for the purpose with not less than two-thirds of the Members of the authority.
6. The Council's Scheme was drawn up in 1986 and amended in July 2007. The first Honorary Alderman (Miss Joan Couper) was enrolled in January 1987. It was the Council's intention that this would be an honour awarded only rarely and only to those who had given exceptional service to Wycombe or one of its predecessor authorities. The variation of the alternative title of Honorary Alderwoman was introduced in 2009 under the Local Government Economic Development and Construction Act.
7. There have been only 17 Honorary Aldermen created since the introduction of the Scheme.

## **Transitional Provisions**

8. In previous years, the enrolment of Honorary Aldermen has taken place at the Council meeting following the elections to enable members standing down from their seat to be enrolled.
9. This year the Council will cease to exist before the elections and therefore the enrolment of Honorary Aldermen or Alderwomen will not be possible after the elections. The transitional provisions (Local Government (Structural Changes) (Transitional Arrangements) No. 2 Regulations 2008 regulation 32) specifically provide for this situation and allow for a Special Council meeting to be held before the election by providing for the enrolment of 'serving members' of the Council.
10. Under s249 LGA 1972, It is not permitted for an Honorary Alderman or Alderwoman to carry out the role whilst still serving as an elected member.  
  
*'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.'*
11. Therefore those members who have been enrolled at the Special meeting will only be able to be addressed as an Honorary Alderman or Alderwoman when they cease to be councillors of the Buckinghamshire Council on the fourth day after the election. In the event that the election is delayed this date will continue to be the fourth day after any rearranged election is held.
12. The Local Government (Structural Changes) (Transitional Arrangements) No. 2 Regulations 2008 also provide that Honorary Aldermen and Alderwomen enrolled by Wycombe District Council will on transition will be enrolled on behalf of the successor Council.

## **Suspension of Specific Scheme Provisions**

13. The procedure for the enrolment of Honorary Aldermen and Alderwomen is set out in the Scheme set out in the Council's Constitution. The Scheme provides for two meetings, one for the proposal and a second for the enrolment after the election.
14. As the decision can be made at the Special meeting before the end of the Wycombe District Council, the proposal and enrolment can take place at the same meeting. Group Leaders have been consulted by the Chief Executive and a list of members has been drawn up to be proposed for enrolment. Five members have requested that this Special Meeting be held in accordance with the Scheme.
15. As the scheme requires the Chief Executive to refer the names to full Council at a previous meeting, the waiving of this requirement is necessary to allow appointments to be made at this Special meeting.
16. The scheme also provides for a maximum of ten Honorary Aldermen or Alderwomen. As this is the last opportunity for Wycombe District Council to agree enrolments and more than the usual number of Councillors are

standing down, it is proposed that this provision should also be waived and that eleven Honorary Aldermen/Alderwomen are enrolled in addition to the existing six Honorary Aldermen.

## **Nominations**

17. It has been proposed by the Chairman of the Council, Councillor Paul Turner, and seconded by the Vice-Chairman of the Council, Councillor Sarfaraz Khan Raja, that the following members and former members of the Council be enrolled as an Honorary Aldermen or Alderwomen.

Councillor Mike Appleyard  
Councillor Sebert Graham  
Councillor Alan Hill  
Councillor Mrs Audrey Jones  
Councillor Hugh McCarthy  
Councillor John Savage  
Councillor David Shakespeare  
Councillor Mrs Jean Teesdale  
Councillor Nigel Teesdale  
Councillor Roger Wilson and  
Former Councillor Mrs Janet Riddington

18. The reasons for the nomination submitted by the proposer and seconder in each case are set out in Appendix A (attached).

19. Subject to the exceptions set out above, the proposals comply with the Council's criteria as set out in the Council's Scheme for the Enrolment of Honorary Alderman (Part I of the Constitution).

## **Consultation**

20. In accordance with the Council's scheme, the proposed recipients have indicated informally, that they would wish to accept the offer of enrolment as an Honorary Alderman or Honorary Alderwoman if this was made.

## **Next steps**

21. The formal presentation to the enrolled Honorary Aldermen will take place. Those Honorary Aldermen who are serving members of this Council can exercise the role once they cease to be serving members.

## **Background Papers**

Scheme for the Enrolment of Honorary Aldermen is set out in the Council's Constitution.