

**BUCKINGHAMSHIRE COUNCIL**  
**HONORARY ALDERMAN SCHEME**

**Background**

1. Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972 gives principal councils the power to confer the title of 'Honorary Alderman' on persons who have, in the opinion of the Council, rendered eminent services to the Council as past members of that Council, but who are no longer members of the council. The Act does not specify how eminent services are defined, and this is left as a matter of local interpretation.
2. The Act also provides that in order to confer the title of Honorary Alderman on an ex-Councillor, a meeting of the whole Council needs to be convened specifically for this purpose and the resolution passed by not less than two thirds of the voting Members present at that meeting.
3. The Local Government (Structural Changes) (Transitional Arrangements) (No.2) Regulations 2008 provide for the continuation of the conferment of Honorary Aldermen status from legacy Councils to a new Authority. Section 32 of these Regulations specifically set out this provision. To this end, Honorary Aldermen from the 5 legacy Buckinghamshire Authorities became Aldermen for Buckinghamshire wef 1 April 2020.

**Process For Nomination**

4. Nominations shall only be made in the year of the Council Elections.
5. Any nomination must be proposed and seconded by existing serving Members of the Council.
6. Nominations received will be submitted to the Monitoring Officer who will then liaise with Group Leaders and the Chairman of the Council for consideration.
7. A report will then be presented to Full Council to consider conferring the Honorary Alderman status.
8. Formal election to the Roll of Honorary Alderman shall be by resolution of the Council, passed by not less than two thirds of those Members present and voting thereon at a meeting of the Council specifically convened for that purpose.

**Criteria**

9. A person shall be deemed eligible to be enrolled as an Honorary Alderman provided that the person has served as a Member of the Council (and any of the 5 legacy Buckinghamshire Local Authorities prior to the establishment of the Council on 1 April 2020) for at least 10 years in total.

## Appendix C

10. Honorary Alderman is an apolitical role so individuals should not hold political office
11. For the purposes of this Scheme, the term “eminent service” is left undefined to allow flexibility when determining nominations

### **Term of Office**

12. All Honorary Aldermen shall be lifetime appointments subject to the withdrawal of Title/Rights as set out below.

### **Rights & Priveleges**

13. An Honorary Alderman is entitled to the following rights & privileges:
  - To be presented with an Honorary Aldermen badge.
  - To receive the link to the electronic version of the Full Council summons & Agenda
  - Parking free at each Council Offices when undertaking duties.
  - To receive invitations to all civic/ceremonial, and social events to which Members of the Council are invited.

(Given the capacity issues with Full Council meetings, and the current number of Honorary Alderman, no guarantee of attendance at Council meetings can be provided)

### **Withdrawal of Title/Rights**

14. If an existing Honorary Alderman stands for election and is not elected, he/she shall continue in the role. If he/she is elected to the Council as a Member, the title and rights shall be withdrawn from the individual for such time as he/she is a serving Member.
15. It shall be competent for the Council in any other particular case to withdraw the title of Honorary Alderman and the attached rights and privileges. Such withdrawal of the title shall be by way of formal motion to a meeting of the full Council, (the summons to which contains special notice that such withdrawal is proposed and the reason therefor) and subsequent resolution of the Council passed by not less than two thirds of the Members present and voting thereon at the meeting of the Council. On the passing of such resolution, the Monitoring Officer shall delete the name of the person concerned from the Roll of Honorary Aldermen and advise that person accordingly.

### **Application of This Scheme**

16. This Scheme shall apply to all Honorary Aldermen of the Council – i.e. those Aldermen who have continued from the legacy Councils (paragraph 3 of this Scheme refers) and Aldermen appointed by Buckinghamshire Council.