

Report to:	COUNCIL
Relevant Officer:	Mark Towers, Director of Governance and Partnerships
Relevant Cabinet Member	Councillor Simon Blackburn, Leader of the Council
Date of Meeting	26 June 2019

HONORARY ALDERMAN

1.0 Purpose of the report:

- 1.1 Under section 249(1) of the Local Government Act 1972 to confer upon a recently retired Councillor, who, in the opinion of the Council, has rendered eminent service to the Borough, the title of 'Honorary Alderman'.

2.0 Recommendation(s):

- 2.1 To confer the title of 'Honorary Alderman' of the Borough of Blackpool under section 249(1) of the Local Government Act 1972 to former councillor Kath Rowson.

3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):

- 3.1 To recognise a long-serving councillor who has made an exceptional contribution to the Borough and their community during their time in office.

3.2a Is the recommendation contrary to a plan or strategy adopted or approved by the Council? No

3.2b Is the recommendation in accordance with the Council's approved budget? Yes

3.3 Other alternative options to be considered:

None. Council has already indicated its intention to confer the honour, at its meeting on 22 May 2019.

4.0 Council Priority:

- 4.1 The recommendations in this report meet all the Council's priorities.

5.0 Background Information

- 5.1 At the meeting of the Council on 22 May 2019, the Council unanimously agreed:

- To agree to hold a special meeting of Council to confer the title of 'Honorary Alderman' of the Borough of Blackpool under section 249(1) of the Local Government Act 1972 to former Councillor Kath Rowson, the time and date of this to be agreed by the Mayor.
- 5.2 The title of Honorary Alderman may be conferred on persons who have, in the opinion of the Council, rendered eminent services to the borough, but who are no longer serving Members. There is no specific definition of 'eminent services', it being left to the discretion of the Council to assess and recognise any individual's contribution to the activities of the Council and the borough. Whilst the award of Honorary Alderman of the Borough does not convey with it any legal rights or responsibilities, Honorary Aldermen support the office of Mayor and are invited to attend civic ceremonial events. A minimum of 15 years' service as a Councillor was agreed as part of the criteria in November 2015.
- 5.3 It would be expected that an Honorary Alderman would be invited to civic events, act as ambassador for the Council and promote civic pride within the borough. Honorary Aldermen would also be entitled to a car park permit and if appropriate use of a tram/ bus passes, operated by the Transport company.
- 5.4 Following consultation with the Mayor, this special meeting has been arranged and an invitation has been extended to former councillor Kath Rowson who expressed her gratification in being put forward for the honour.
- 5.5 Once the recommendation has been moved and seconded (the proposal is for the Leader of the Council to move the motion and the Mayor to second the motion. A vote will then be taken at the end of this and Kath Rowson will have the opportunity should she wish, to speak.
- 5.6 In accordance with Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972, a nominee must receive the support of not less than two-thirds of the Members voting at a special meeting convened for that purpose.

Does the information submitted include any exempt information? No

List of Appendices:

None.

6.0 Legal considerations:

- 6.1 Section 249(1) of the Local Government Act 1972 allows Councils to confer the award of Honorary Alderman.

7.0 Human Resources considerations:

7.1 There are no Human Resource considerations

8.0 Equalities considerations:

8.1 There are no equalities considerations

9.0 Financial considerations:

9.1 A small badge of office has been purchased, which has been met from within current budgets.

10.0 Risk management considerations:

10.1 There are no risk management considerations

11.0 Ethical considerations:

11.1 The conferring of such an award recognises the dedicated service the nominee will have made to the borough of Blackpool.

12.0 Internal/ External Consultation undertaken:

12.1 Consultation has taken place with the Mayor and the decision to hold this special meeting was agreed by Council on 22 May 2019.

13.0 Background papers:

13.1 None.