

Report to:	COUNCIL
Relevant Officer:	Mark Towers, Director of Governance and Regulatory Services
Relevant Cabinet Member	Councillor Simon Blackburn, Leader of the Council
Date of Meeting	25 November 2015

HONORARY ALDERMEN

1.0 Purpose of the report:

1.1 Following consultation with the Mayor, the Leader of the Council and the Leader of the Conservative Group, the Council is asked to give consideration to agreeing a process under section 249(1) of the Local Government Act 1972 for conferring upon retired Councillors, who, in the opinion of the Council, have rendered eminent service to the Borough, the title of 'Honorary Alderman'. Similar awards are already in place at Councils such as Fylde Borough, Wyre Borough, Preston City and Lancashire County Councils.

2.0 Recommendation(s):

2.1 To agree to adopt the award of Honorary Alderman of the Borough under section 249(1) of the Local Government Act 1972 and agree the process and criteria as set out in section 5 of this report.

2.2 That invitations be extended to former Councillors Henry Mitchell, Val Haynes, Sylvia Taylor, Peter Evans, Joyce Delves and Brian Doherty to attend a special meeting of the Council in May 2016 to be awarded the title of Honorary Alderman.

2.3 That the Director of Governance and Regulatory Services be requested to arrange a Special meeting of Council in May 2016.

3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):

3.1 To recognise long-serving councillors who have 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:

To not introduce the award.

4.0 Council Priority:

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

5.0 Background Information

5.1 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 is recommended.

5.2 In accordance with Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972 nominees must receive the support of not less than two-thirds of the Members voting at a special meeting convened for that purpose.

5.3 It is recommended that (unless exceptional circumstances prevail) it only applies to Councillors who have stood down from the Council, as opposed to losing their seat at an election. (It is also recommended that the award does not apply to past members of the Council who have stood down prior to May 2015). A resolution would need to be passed to convene a special meeting of the Council, to award formally the status of Honorary Alderman to those nominees.

5.4 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 pass, operated by the Transport company.

Does the information submitted include any exempt information? No

List of Appendices: None

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 would be purchased but this can be 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, the Leader of the Council and the Leader of the Conservative Group.

13.0 Background papers:

None