

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	16 May 2016

HONORARY ALDERMEN

1.0 Purpose of the report:

1.1 Under section 249(1) of the Local Government Act 1972 to confer upon six recently retired Councillors, who, in the opinion of the Council, have 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 councillors Joyce Delves, Brian Doherty Peter Evans, Val Haynes, Henry Mitchell and Sylvia Taylor.

2.2 That Mr Brian Doherty be invited to attend the June meeting of the Council to receive his Honorary Aldermen medal.

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:

None. Council has already indicated its intention to confer the honour, at its meeting on 25 November 2015.

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 25 November 2015, the Council unanimously agreed:

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

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 for the morning of the Annual Council meeting. Invitations have been extended to all six former councillors and all expressed their gratification in being put forward for the honour. Unfortunately, Mr Brian Doherty is away on holiday on the day of the meeting, but the proposal is for him to be awarded the honour at this meeting and then to invite him to the June Council meeting to receive his medal.

5.5 Once the recommendations have been moved and seconded (the proposal is for the Leader of the Council to move the motion and for the Leader of the Conservative Group to second the motion), a representative from each party will be invited to say a few words on each nominee. A vote will then be taken at the end of this and the five nominees in attendance will have the opportunity should they wish, to speak.

5.6 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.

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, the Leader of the Council and the Leader of the Conservative Group and the decision to hold this special meeting was agreed by Council on 25 November 2015.

13.0 Background papers:

13.1 None.