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| Report to: | COUNCIL |
| Relevant Officer: | Mark Towers, Director of Governance and Partnerships |
| Relevant Cabinet Member: | Councillor Lynn Williams, Leader of the Council |
| Date of Meeting: | 11 January 2024 |

HONORARY ALDERMAN

1.0 Purpose of the report:

1.1 Under section 249(1) of the Local Government Act 1972, to confer upon three recently retired councillors the title of ‘Honorary Alderman’ in line with the criteria agreed by Council.

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 Don Clapham, Gary Coleman and Allan Matthews.

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 20 September 2023.

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 agreed to adopt the award of Honorary Alderman of the Borough under section 249(1) of the Local Government Act 1972 and it also agreed the process and criteria for such conferment.
- 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.
- 5.3 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 certain civic ceremonial events. A minimum of 15 years' service as a councillor was agreed as part of the criteria in November 2015 and that they had stood down prior to an election, as opposed to losing their seat at an election. The former councillors put forward have all served more than 15 years.
- 5.4 It would be expected that an Honorary Alderman would be invited to certain 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.
- 5.5 Once the recommendations have been moved and seconded a representative from each party will be invited to say a few words on each nominee. A vote will then be taken and the three nominees in attendance will have the opportunity to speak, should they wish.
- 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:

Appendix 2a – Order of Proceedings (to follow under separate cover).

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 20 September 2023.

13.0 Background papers:

13.1 None.