

**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:**

20 September 2023

## HONORARY ALDERMAN

### 1.0 Purpose of the report:

1.1 Following deferral at the last Council meeting, to consider, under section 249(1) of the Local Government Act 1972, whether to make arrangements for a Special meeting of Council to confer upon recently retired councillors, who, in line with the criteria agreed by Council and wish to be put forward, to receive the title of 'Honorary Alderman'.

### 2.0 Recommendation(s):

2.1 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 three former councillors:

- Don Clapham
- Gary Coleman
- Allan Matthews

the time and date of this to be agreed by the Mayor.

2.2 That the Group Leaders continue to meet to review the Civic Honours available in Blackpool and report back to a future meeting on any recommended changes.

### 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.

**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 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 and this report is to agree that a special meeting be set up for such purposes.

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 Badges of office will be purchased which can be met from within the current civic revenue budget. If the recommendation is approved then these will be ordered in time for the Special meeting.

**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 Group Leaders regarding this report and the holding of a special meeting. Consultation has also taken place with those former councillors who stood down at the last election and this report recommends a special meeting be arranged for those who wish to receive the award. Former Councillor Simon Blackburn does not wish to be considered for the award. The item was deferred at the last Council meeting however since that time former Councillor David Owen has also withdrawn from the process. No other former Councillors meet the criteria set out in paragraph 5.3.

**13.0 Background papers:**

13.1 None.