

CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

Civic Sub-Committee

Date of Meeting: 7 September 2011
Report of: Democratic and Registration Services Manager
Subject/Title: Honorary Aldermen

1.0 Report Summary

- 1.1 To make recommendations that the title of Honorary Alderman be conferred on former Members of the Council.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 That

- (1) the Constitution Committee be asked to recommend to Council that the title of Honorary Alderman be conferred on the following former Members of the Council:

Mr Ainsley Arnold
Mr David Cannon
Mr Ray Westwood
Mr Andrew Knowles
Mr Tony Ranfield
Mr John Goddard

- (2) the Sub-Committee indicate when the Council meeting should take place and consider the form of ceremony.

3.0 Financial Implications

- 3.1 Under the provisions of Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972 Councils are allowed to spend 'such reasonable sum as they think fit' on presenting an address or casket containing the address to the Honorary Alderman. Any costs can be met by the Civic budget.

4.0 Legal Implications

- 4.1 Under the provisions of Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972, "a principal council may, by a resolution passed by not less than two-thirds of the members voting thereon at a meeting of the council specially convened for the purpose with notice of the object, confer the title of Honorary Alderman on persons who have, in the opinion of the council, rendered eminent services to the council as past members of that council, but who are not then members of that council".

5.0 Risk Management

5.1 No issues have been identified.

6.0 Background

6.1 Every Council should have its own criteria for the appointment of Honorary Aldermen, a list of rights and duties for Honorary Aldermen and its own ceremony for their Admission. At the meetings of Council held on 14 October 2010 and 12 December 2010 the Council approved a scheme relating to the appointment, rights and privileges of Honorary Aldermen.

6.2 For the purposes of the Council's scheme it was resolved that the term 'eminent service' should mean a minimum of 12 years' service, whether consecutive or otherwise. Where a Member had served on one or more predecessor authorities of Cheshire East, whether concurrently or otherwise, including the shadow authority, the service with each authority should be taken into account separately for the purpose of determining eminent service.

6.3 The Council's records indicate that former Councillors Arnold, Cannon, Westwood, Knowles, Ranfield and Goddard have served the minimum of 12 years and are eligible to be appointed as Honorary Aldermen of the Council. Other than Mr Knowles each has confirmed that he would accept the title of Alderman if the Civic Sub Committee nominated him. The position in respect of Mr Knowles will be given at the meeting.

6.4 As this is a formal civic ceremony all Cheshire East Alderman and Freeman will be invited to attend. At the ceremony, those upon whom the title is to be conferred will be presented with a framed scroll and a medallion.

6.5 After consulting with the Group Leaders on the date for the ceremony the recommendation is that a special meeting of Council and a short civic reception should be held on the same day as an ordinary meeting of the Council. The next ordinary meetings of Council will be held in Crewe Town Hall on 13 October and Congleton Town Hall on 15 December.

6.6 The following ceremonial procedure is suggested:

1. The Mayor will open and welcome those present to the Meeting
2. The Leader will propose a formal motion
3. The Mayor will invite a Member to second the motion
4. The Leader will give a tribute to those upon whom the title is to be conferred

5. The Mayor will invite other members to give similar tributes
 6. The Mayor will invite the Council to pass the formal resolution
 7. The Mayor will invite the recipient(s) to come forward and sign the Roll of Honorary Alderman and Freeman
 8. The Mayor will present a scroll and medallion to the recipient
 9. The recipient will give a response
 10. The Mayor will conclude proceedings
- 6.7 The Civic Sub Committee is asked to indicate when the Council meeting should take place and consider the form of ceremony at which the titles will be conferred.

7.0 Access to Information

- 7.1 The background papers relating to this report can be inspected by contacting the report writer:

Name: Brian Reed

Designation: Democratic and Registration Services Manager

Tel No: 01270 686670

Email: brian.reed@cheshireeast.gov.uk