
CHESHIRE EAST COUNCIL

Civic Sub Committee

Date of Meeting: 3 August 2010
Report of: Democratic Services Manager
Subject/Title: Honorary Aldermen and Freeman

1.0 Report Summary

- 1.1 To make recommendations upon several matters relating to the Honorary Aldermen and Freeman of Cheshire East Council who were admitted under the Local Government (Structural Changes) (Transitional Arrangements) (No2) Regulations 2008. This includes the benefits, rights and privileges to which they should be entitled. Recommendations are also made in respect of the criteria for the appointment of Honorary Alderman and Freeman.

2.0 Recommendations

That the Civic Sub-Committee make recommendations to the Constitution Committee upon the benefits, rights and privileges to which Honorary Aldermen and Freeman should be entitled and the criteria for the appointment of Honorary Alderman and Freeman.

3.0 Financial Implications

- 4.1 Section 249 (6) of the Local Government Act 1972 allows Councils to spend 'such reasonable sum as they think fit' on presenting an address or casket containing the address to the Honorary Alderman or Freeman. Excluding any charges for a civic reception the cost of a framed scroll and a gift to commemorate the award of the title of Honorary Aldermen or Freeman are estimated to be a maximum of £1000. Any costs associated with the benefits, rights and privileges to which Honorary Aldermen and Freeman might be entitled will be met from the Civic and Democratic Services budgets.

4.0 Legal Implications

- 4.1 Section 248 of the Local Government Act 1972 permits the council of a relevant authority, 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, to admit to be Honorary Freeman of the borough persons of distinction and persons who have, in the opinion of the council, rendered eminent services to the borough.

- 4.2 With regard to Honorary Aldermen, 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 aldermen 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”.
- 4.3 Sections 32 and 33 of the Local Government (Structural Changes) (Transitional Arrangements) (No2) Regulations 2008 confirm that a person who has been admitted as an Honorary Alderman or Freeman of a local government area that has been abolished shall be treated as being admitted as an Honorary Alderman and Freeman of the new reorganised area.
- 4.4 Part 1 Chapter 5 – of the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009 makes new provisions on Local Freedoms and Honorary titles and amends Sections 248 and 249 of the Local Government Act 1972. These measures extend existing privileges to include the daughters as well as sons of a Freeman of a city or town, and provide for women to use the title of ‘Honorary Freewoman’. A civil partner will be in the same position as a spouse or surviving spouse of a person admitted to the Freedom of a city or town. The honorary title of ‘Honorary Alderwoman’ may also be awarded. This legislation came into force on 1st April 2010 and is intended to make changes which have not already been made by principal councils.

5.0 Risk Management

- 5.1 No issues can be identified as arising from the proposals contained in this report.

6.0 Background

- 6.1 At a meeting of the Civic Sub-Committee held earlier this year Members considered a report on matters relating to the Honorary Aldermen and Freeman of Cheshire East Council who had been admitted from the demised authorities.
- 6.2 A provisional list of Honorary Aldermen and Freeman, who were admitted by the demised authorities, was circulated at the meeting together with a list of rights and privileges that had been extended to them.
- 6.3 The Civic Sub-Committee resolved that the Democratic Services Manager write to all Members of the Council with a view to confirming the accuracy of the list of Honorary Aldermen and Freeman and to consult with all Members of the Council on what rights and privileges should be granted by this Council.

- 6.4 A letter was sent to all Members seeking their views on these different matters.
- 6.5 Following consultation with Members a revised list of Honorary Aldermen and Freeman, who have been admitted by the demised authorities has been prepared. This is attached at Appendix 1. The rights and privileges that each authority had conferred upon Honorary Aldermen is attached at Appendix 2. Attached at Appendix 3 is a copy of the letter sent to members. Appendix 4 summaries the responses received.
- 6.6 Correspondence on this matter has also been received from Honorary Alderman Melrose and she has given additional information that is included in Appendix 4.
- 6.7 Generally an Honorary Alderman may attend and take part in such civic ceremonies as the council may from time to time decide but shall not have the right to:
- Attend meetings of the council, cabinet or a committee of the council other than as a member of the public (including a joint committee upon which the council is represented)
 - To receive any of the allowances or other payments to which councillors are entitled.
- 6.8 The admission of a person to be an Honorary Freeman does not confer the rights granted to be an Honorary Alderman.
- 6.9 Every Council should have its own criteria for the appointment of Honorary Alderman, a list of rights and duties and its own ceremony for their admission.
- 6.10 Cheshire East Council needs to consider its own arrangements. Attached at Appendix 5 is a Scheme for the appointment of Honorary Alderman and Freeman. The Scheme confirms the rights an privileges that the Council will confer and includes an indicative Order of Proceedings for the Ceremony.

7.0 Proposals for the Sub Committee to Consider?

Set out below are the main matters for the Sub Committee to consider:

- the criteria for the appointment of Honorary Alderman and Freeman
- a list of rights and duties conferred on Honorary Alderman and Freeman
- the ceremony for their admission

- arrangements for their attendance at meetings and events and notification of events

8.0 Access to Information

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

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Appendix 1

ALDERMEN AND FREEMAN OF THE FORMER CHESHIRE COUNTY AND BOROUGH COUNCILS

Prior to disbandment on 31 March 2009, Cheshire County Council, Crewe & Nantwich Borough Council, Congleton Borough Council and Macclesfield Borough Council had conferred the title of Honorary Alderman and Freeman onto the following recipients:

Cheshire County Council

Alderman

Mrs J E Hill	Pre 1998
Mr D P Hood	Pre 1998
Mr Alan Barnes	2001
Mrs Margaret Melrose DL	2001
Mr David Palmer	2001
Mr William Talbot	2001
Mr D A Bould	2005
Mr K A Hemsley	2005
Cllr John Paul Findlow	2009
Mr John Gordon Alexander Fyffe	2009
Mr Barrie Rushworth Hardern	2009
Mr David Lloyd-Griffiths	2009
Cllr Peter Herbert Mason	2009
Cllr Arthur Moran	2009
Mr David John Newton DL	2009
Mr Peter Nurse	2009
Mr Neville Thomas Price	2009
Cllr Stephen Roger Wilkinson	2009

No Honorary Freemen have been admitted. Advice from the Former County Secretary suggests that the County was not empowered to do so.

Crewe and Nantwich Borough Council

Alderman

Mr Wilfred Talbot	1979
Mr Alan Gilderthorpe Chapman	1990
Mr John Michael Bedson JP	1991
Mr Roland Peter Birchall	1995
Mr Richard A Ellwood	1999
Leslie Cooper	1999
Mr Douglas Neville Butterill	2005
Mr Peter Kent	2009
Mr Howard Curran	2009
Mrs Maureen Grant	2009
Mr Steve Hogben	2009
Mr Michael Roberts	2009
Mr Steven Roberts	2009
Mr Gwyn Griffiths	2009
Mr Ray Stafford	2009
Mr Ron Salmon	2009
Mr Leslie Wood	2009
Cllr Terry Beard	2009
Cllr Brian Silvester	2009
Cllr Christopher Thorley	2009
Cllr Stanley Davies	2009

Freeman

The 22nd (Cheshire) Regiment	1986
Mrs Anne B Blacklay BSc	1989
HMS Ambuscade (de-commissioned)	1993
Mr John Michael Bedson JP	1998
Mr Michel-Antoine Rognard	2001
Mr Edward John Bowler	2003
Mr Dario Gradi MBE	2003

Congleton Borough Council

Alderman

Mr R Tomlinson	1998
Mr R C Parry	2004
Mr K A Hemsley	2004
Mrs K A Thompson	2004
Mr M J Cooper	2009
Mr T Farrell	2009
Mr R A Giltrap	2009
Mr L Morris	2009
MR F Walton	2009
Cllr D T Brown	2009
Cllr RM Domleo	2009
Cllr P J Edwards	2009
Cllr RI Fletcher	2009
Cllr DI Hough	2009

Freeman

Mr G Chambers	2009
First Battalion of the Mercian Regiment was also a Freeman of the Borough	

Macclesfield Borough Council

Alderman

Mr P. O. Davies	2009
Mrs. S. L. Hardern	2009
Mr K. Jagger	2009
Mr A. Wall	2009
Mr R. F. Short	2009
Mrs. M. D. Clampett	2009
Mrs. D. M. Millett	2009
Mrs. J. M. Barnes	2009
Mr N. H. Edwards	2009
Councillor Miss C.M. Andrew	2009
Mr G W Wright	2009
Councillor P. P. Whiteley	2009
Councillor J. B. Crockatt	2009
Mr B E Burkhill	2009
Councillor Mrs T Jackson	2009
Councillor Mrs A I E Harewood	2009
Mrs J. M. Palmer	2009
Mrs J.A. Jackson	2009
Mrs S. E. Roberts	2009

Freeman

Margaret Duddy OBE	2002
Sir Nicholas Winterton MP	2002
The Kings School, Macclesfield	2002
The Cheshire Regiment was also a Freeman of the Borough	

Appendix 2

CRITERIA FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF HONORARY ALDEREMAN AND THE RIGHTS AND PRIVILEGES CONFERRED BY THE FORMER CHESHIRE EAST COUNCILS

Cheshire County Council

SCHEME FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF HONORARY ALDERMEN

1. The Organisation Committee shall have the duty of submitting, from time to time, to the full Council, the names of past Members of the Council who, in the opinion of the Committee, have rendered eminent services to the Council and on whom should be conferred the title of "Honorary Alderman" in accordance with the provisions of Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972.
2. When the Committee has approved such a recommendation, the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Chairman of the Council, shall convene a special meeting of the Council for the purposes of considering the proposition that the title of Honorary Alderman be conferred on the person or persons recommended by the Committee.
3. The resolution of the Council conferring the title of Honorary Alderman on a former Member shall be suitably engrossed and embodied in a Roll of Honorary Aldermen of the Cheshire County Council.
4. The Roll of Honorary Aldermen shall be kept by the County Secretary.
5. An Honorary Alderman of the Cheshire County Council shall enjoy such privileges as may properly be conferred by the Council from time to time and in particular shall be entitled:
 - (1) to attend civic receptions and other civic functions or ceremonies to which all Members of the Council are invited;
 - (2) to attend meeting of the County Council and to be allocated a seat in the Council Chamber;
 - (3) to use, by invitation, the facilities in the Group Rooms;
 - (4) to receive the privileges accorded to Members of the Council in respect of admission to Tatton Park.
6. For the purposes of this Scheme the term "eminent services" shall mean three full terms of office and/or service as Chairman or Vice-Chairman of the Council and/or the holding of a senior political office.

PRIVILEGES

As set out in Section 5 above.

Crewe and Nantwich Borough Council

SCHEME FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF HONORARY ALDERMEN

The title of Honorary Alderman was normally awarded to long serving Members on retirement.

PRIVILEGES

The privileges were the same as those for Honorary Freemen which were invitations to all major civic events and copies of the Borough Council Agenda and Minutes.

Congleton Borough Council

SCHEME FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF HONORARY ALDERMEN

The title of Honorary Alderman was normally awarded to long serving Members on retirement.

PRIVILEGES

Invitations to all major civic events.

Macclesfield Borough Council

SCHEME FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF HONORARY ALDERMEN

To be considered for the appointment of Honorary Alderman Members had either been Mayors of the Borough and/ or are still serving Councillors who have completed over three terms of office as Councillor.

PRIVILEGES

Invitations to all major civic events.

Appendix 3

To All Members of the Council

Brian Reed

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DATE: 26th March 2010
REF:

OUR REF:

YOUR

Dear Member

Honorary Freeman and Alderman

At a recent meeting of the Civic Sub-Committee, Members considered a report on several matters relating to the Honorary Aldermen and Freemen of the Council who had been admitted from the demised East Cheshire authorities.

A provisional list of Honorary Aldermen and Freemen, who were admitted by the demised East Cheshire authorities, was circulated at the meeting.

In addition, information was also circulated on the rights and privileges that each authority had conferred upon Honorary Aldermen.

The Civic Sub-Committee will consider this matter further in due course, but before doing so asked that I write to all Members of the Council with a view to confirming the accuracy of the list of Honorary Aldermen and Freemen and to consult with all Members of the Council on what rights and privileges should be granted by this Council.

I should be grateful therefore if you would consider the attached provisional list of Honorary Aldermen and Freemen to confirm its accuracy. Secondly please could you consider the rights and privileges that each authority had conferred upon Honorary Aldermen and let me have your views upon them?

The intention is that the Council should have its own criteria for the appointment of Honorary Aldermen and a list of rights and duties together with a civic ceremony for their Admission.

Yours sincerely

Democratic Services Manager

Appendix 4
Summary of Responses

Name of Respondent	Comment
Councillor Brown	Correction of Name
Councillor Thorley	Addition of Wilfred Talbot
Councillor Gilbert	Confirmation that list is correct in so far as he is aware
Councillor Stella Furlong	Confirmation that list is correct in so far as she is aware
Councillor Topping	Confirmation that list is correct in so far as he is aware
Councillor Hammond	Addition of First Battalion of the Mercian Regiment (Cheshire)
Councillor Carolyn Andrew	Confirmation that list is correct in so far as she is aware

In addition to the above the Council has received correspondence on this matter from Alderman Margaret Melrose. She anticipates that Cheshire East Council will remain in regular contact with Alderman and has notified the Council of the following privileges that were extended to Aldermen by Cheshire County Council.

“County Alderman were:-

- 1. Invited to all meetings of the full Council*
- 2. Sent all papers for the meeting at the same time as Councillors*
- 3. Given a seat in the Council Chamber (not staff or visitors galleries)*
- 4. Invited to all functions to which the whole Council were invited, with spouses if Councillors spouses were invited*
- 5. Provided with a top grade parking pass for all council premises and space provided*
- 6. Given a life pass to Tatton Park and all its facilities*
- 7. Given a pair of tickets for one day at the County Show at Tabley and a pair of tickets for one day at the RHS Flower Show at Tatton and invited to the Chairmen’s Lunch on both occasions (paid for by the Alderman)*
- 8. Provided with Internal Telephone directory and Council Calendar”*

Appendix 5

SCHEME FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF HONORARY ALDERMEN AND FREEMEN

1. The Civic Sub Committee shall have the duty of submitting, from time to time, to the full Council, the names of past Members of the Council who, in the opinion of the Sub Committee, have rendered eminent services to the Council and on whom should be conferred the title of "Honorary Alderman" or "Honorary Alderwoman" in accordance with the provisions of Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972.
2. The Civic Sub Committee shall have the duty of submitting, from time to time, to the names of persons of distinction and persons who have, in the opinion of the Sub Committee, rendered eminent services to the borough who have rendered eminent services to the Council and on whom should be conferred the title of "Honorary Freeman" or "Honorary Freewoman" in accordance with the provisions of Section 248 of the Local Government Act 1972.
3. When the Sub Committee has made such a recommendation, the Constitution Committee shall consider the recommendation and if approved will request the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Mayor and Leader of the Council, to convene a special meeting of the Council for the purposes of considering the proposition that the title of Honorary Alderman or Honorary Freeman be conferred on the person or persons recommended by the Sub Committee.
4. The resolution of the Council conferring the title of Honorary Alderman on a former Member or Honorary Freeman shall be suitably engrossed and embodied in a Roll of Honorary Aldermen and Honorary Freeman of Cheshire East Council. A framed scroll and civic gift will be presented
4. The Roll of Honorary Aldermen and Honorary Freeman shall be kept by the Borough Solicitor.
5. An Honorary Alderman of the Cheshire East Council shall enjoy such privileges as may properly be conferred by the Council from time to time and in particular shall be entitled:
 - (1) to attend civic receptions and other civic functions or ceremonies to which all Members of the Council are invited and where the spouses and partners of Members are able to attend so shall the spouses and partners of Alderman;
 - (2) to attend meeting of the Full Council and to be allocated a seat in the public part of the Council Chamber;
 - (3) to be notified on a regular basis of significant civic matters by the Democratic Services Manager.

6. For the purposes of this Scheme the term “eminent services” shall mean ten years of office and/or service as Leader of the Council or Mayor. (Note for those Members who served on the demised authorities this service will be taken in to account for the purposes of calculating years of office.)
7. An Honorary Freeman of the Cheshire East Council shall enjoy such privileges as may properly be conferred by the Council from time to time and in particular shall be entitled to attend civic receptions and other civic functions or ceremonies to which all Members of the Council are invited and where the spouses and partners of Members are able to attend so shall the spouses and partners of Freeman.

CEREMONY FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF HONORARY ALDERMEN AND FREEMEN

The Mayor will open the meeting and welcome everybody to the Meeting

The Leader will move a formal motion

The Mayor will invite a Member to second the motion

The Leader will give a tribute

The Mayor will invite other members to give tributes

The Mayor will invite the Council to pass the formal resolution

The Mayor will invite the recipient(s) to come forward and sign the Roll of Honorary Alderman and Freeman

The Mayor will present a scroll and civic gift to the recipient

The recipient will give a response

The Mayor will conclude proceedings and invite Members and guests to attend a civic reception