

STOCKTON-ON-TEES BOROUGH COUNCIL

CABINET RECOMMENDATIONS

PROFORMA

Cabinet Meeting31st October 2013

1. Title of Item/Report

Honorary Alderman

2. Record of the Decision

Consideration was given to a report on the criteria for conferring the title of Honorary Alderman.

In preparation for the changes that may result from the Local Elections in 2015, Cabinet was asked to consider the criteria for conferring the title of Honorary Alderman and whether they were fit for purpose.

In accordance with the Local Government Act 1972, for this title to be conferred, not less than two thirds of Members voting must agree at a Council meeting specially convened for the purpose of doing so.

At the meeting on 29 March 2000 Council accepted the recommendations of the then Civic Sub-Committee that reckonable service for the purpose of conferring this title should be at least 20 years or 15 years with relevant Councils including holding a senior office over a long period. In this context it had also been the practice not to count service with the former Cleveland County Council where that service was contemporaneous with service with Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council or its predecessor authorities.

At its meeting on the 25th September 2013, the Members Advisory Panel was asked to consider if the criteria remained appropriate.

The Panel was asked:-

- if the 20 year period (without holding a senior office) should be changed.
- whether 15 years (including holding a senior office) was appropriate over a long period.
- if senior office should be defined eg holding an office which attracts a special responsibility allowance.
- whether a long period for holding such an office should also be defined eg 8 years.

The Panel considered that any Councillor who had an appropriate length of service, whether or not including holding a senior office with the Council, should qualify. The Panel agreed that an appropriate length of service should be 12 years, which equated to three election terms, and that this should be the only criterion.

RECOMMENDED to Council that the appropriate length of service for conferring the title of Honorary Alderman should be 12 years and that this should be the only criterion.

3. Reasons for the Decision

To ensure that the Council's criteria for conferring to the title of Honorary Alderman accurately reflect Members' views.

4. Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

None

5. Declared (Cabinet Member) Conflicts of Interest

All Members present declared a personal non prejudicial interest in respect of agenda item 10 - Honorary Aldermen given their personal interest in any 'ceremonial honours' given to Councillors, and the criteria for conferring those honours.

6. Details of any Dispensations

None

7. Date and Time by which Call In must be executed

N/A

Proper Officer
04 May 2013