

## CABINET ITEM COVERING SHEET PROFORMA

AGENDA ITEM

REPORT TO CABINET

31 OCTOBER 2013

REPORT OF CORPORATE  
MANAGEMENT TEAM

### COUNCIL DECISION

Corporate Management and Finance – Lead Cabinet Member – Councillor Harrington

#### HONORARY ALDERMAN

1. Summary

The report asks Cabinet to consider the criteria for conferring the title of Honorary Alderman.

2. Recommendations

It is 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 Recommendations

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

4. Members' Interests

Members (including co-opted Members) should consider whether they have a personal interest in any item, as defined in **paragraphs 9 and 11** of the Council's code of conduct and, if so, declare the existence and nature of that interest in accordance with and/or taking account of **paragraphs 12 - 17** of the code.

Where a Member regards him/herself as having a personal interest, as described in **paragraph 16** of the code, in any business of the Council he/she must then, **in accordance with paragraph 18** of the code, consider whether that interest is one which a member of the public, with knowledge of the relevant facts, would reasonably regard as so significant that it is likely to prejudice the Member's judgement of the public interest and the business:-

- affects the members financial position or the financial position of a person or body described in **paragraph 17** of the code, or

- relates to the determining of any approval, consent, licence, permission or registration in relation to the member or any person or body described in **paragraph 17** of the code.

A Member with a personal interest, as described in **paragraph 18** of the code, may attend the meeting but must not take part in the consideration and voting upon the relevant item of business. However, a member with such an interest may make representations, answer questions or give evidence relating to that business before the business is considered or voted on, provided the public are also allowed to attend the meeting for the same purpose whether under a statutory right or otherwise (**paragraph 19** of the code)

Members may participate in any discussion and vote on a matter in which they have an interest, as described in **paragraph 18** of the code, where that interest relates to functions of the Council detailed in **paragraph 20** of the code.

### **Disclosable Pecuniary Interests**

It is a criminal offence for a member to participate in any discussion or vote on a matter in which he/she has a disclosable pecuniary interest (and where an appropriate dispensation has not been granted) **paragraph 21** of the code.

Members are required to comply with any procedural rule adopted by the Council which requires a member to leave the meeting room whilst the meeting is discussing a matter in which that member has a disclosable pecuniary interest (**paragraph 22** of the code).

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MANAGEMENT TEAM**

**COUNCIL DECISION**

**HONORARY ALDERMAN**

**SUMMARY**

The report asks Cabinet to consider the criteria for conferring the title of Honorary Alderman.

**RECOMMENDATION**

It is 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.

**DETAIL**

**Background**

1. In preparation for the changes that may result from the Local Elections in 2015, Cabinet is asked to consider the current criteria for conferring the title of Honorary Alderman and whether they are fit for purpose.
2. 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.
3. 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 has 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.

**Members Advisory Panel**

4. At its meeting on the 25<sup>th</sup> September 2013, the Members Advisory Panel was asked to consider if the current criteria remained appropriate.

5. 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.
6. 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.

## **FINANCIAL AND LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

### **Financial**

7. Any costs associated with conferring the title of Honorary Alderman would be met from existing budgets.

### **Legal**

8. The provisions of the Local Government Act 1972 (section 249(1)) provide that an Honorary Alderman should be a person who has in the Council's opinion, rendered eminent service to the Council as a past member and who is not a current Member.

## **RISK ASSESSMENT**

9. This matter is considered to be low risk.

## **SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY IMPLICATIONS**

10. None.

## **EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

11. An assessment is not considered to be necessary.

## **CONSULTATION**

12. The Members Advisory Panel, Leader, Deputy Leader and Political Group Leaders have been consulted. All Members will have access to this report.

### **Director of Law and Democracy**

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Background Papers: none  
Ward(s) and Ward Councillors: not ward specific  
Property Implications: none