

AGENDA ITEM

**REPORT TO
COUNCIL**

6 NOVEMBER 2013

**REPORT OF
CORPORATE
MANAGEMENT TEAM**

HONORARY ALDERMAN

SUMMARY

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

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that consideration is given to the report and Cabinet's views regarding the criteria for conferring the title of Honorary Alderman.

DETAIL

Background

1. In preparation for the changes that may result from the Local Elections in 2015, Council 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 25th 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.
7. Cabinet considered the matter at its meeting on the 31st October 2013. The relevant Cabinet decision record is attached as an Appendix to this report (To Follow)

FINANCIAL AND LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Financial

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

Legal

9. 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

10. This matter is considered to be low risk.

SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY IMPLICATIONS

11. None.

EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

12. An assessment is not considered to be necessary.

CONSULTATION

13. 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