

**NOMINATION FOR THE POSTHUMOUS APPOINTMENT OF HONORARY ALDERMAN  
STATUS**

**SUMMARY**

Council is asked to consider the current criteria for eligibility for Alderman status in the light of a request received proposing the conferment of the posthumous title of Honorary Alderman status to former long serving Councillor Julia Cherrett, in accordance with Section 249 (1) of the Local Government Act 1972.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that:-

1. The amendment to the current criteria for eligibility for Alderman status where in such circumstances brought about by bereavement, the reckonable service be calculated to include up to the date of the next local elections in each case be agreed.
2. Subject to Council's agreement on the above, the Alderman nomination in respect of former Councillor Julia Cherrett be endorsed.

**DETAIL**

3. Under Section 249 (1) of the Local Government Act 1972 a principal Council may, by a resolution passed by not less than two thirds of Members in attendance and voting thereon at a meeting of the Council specially convened for the purpose, 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, but who are not current Members of the Council. This includes conferring the award posthumously should the Council wish to do so.
4. Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council, via discussions initiated by the Members Advisory Panel, has previously agreed that reckonable service for the purpose of conferring this title should be at least 16 years and should take into account factors such as the nominees' previous attendance at Council/Committee meetings; and/or contribution the individual has made to the Council.
5. A nomination has been received in respect of former Councillor Julia Cherrett, who passed away suddenly in October 2020. Julia was elected to Stockton Borough Council on the 5<sup>th</sup> May 2005 and served continuously until the time of her death in 2020; a total of nearly 15 ½ years.
6. During her time in office, Julia served on a number of council and partner committees, including Executive Scrutiny Committee, the Fire Authority and Stockton Home Safety Association. Julia also served as Chair and Vice Chair of the Housing and Community Safety Select Committee.

7. Julia's service is however fractionally short of the approved reckonable service of 16 years set out in the Council's approved criteria. However, having been re-elected in 2019, had Julia lived to serve for the full duration of her electoral term until the next local elections in 2023, she would have accrued a further 2½ years of reckonable service, taking her to 18 years-service in total.
8. Council is therefore invited to consider whether in such tragic circumstances brought about by bereavement, the existing criteria should be amended to allow the reckonable service to include up to the date of the next local elections in each case.
9. The Members Advisory Panel at its meeting held on 9 February 2022 agreed in principle to the above amendment of the criteria and agreed that the matter should be referred to full Council for consideration, alongside the nomination in respect of Julia.

## **FINANCIAL AND LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

10. There are limited financial implications associated with the cost of providing each Honorary Alderman with a framed certificate and photograph; the cost of which can be borne within existing budgets. The recommendations comply with the legislative provisions of the Section 249(1) of the Local Government Act 1972.

## **RISK ASSESSMENT**

11. This report is categorised as low to medium risk. Existing management systems and daily routine activities are sufficient to control and reduce the risk.

## **COUNCIL PLAN IMPLICATIONS**

12. Strong local democracy.

## **CONSULTATION INCLUDING WARD/COUNCILLORS**

13. Consultation has taken place with political group leaders.

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Background Papers	None
Education Related Item	No
Ward(s) and Ward Councillors	All
Property Implications	None