

BRISTOL CITY COUNCIL

**AUDIT COMMITTEE
19th April 2013**

Report of: Service Manager, Democratic Services

Title: The Appointment of Honorary Aldermen

Ward: Citywide

Officer Presenting Report:

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RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that, due to their significant contribution to the local community as outlined below, the Committee endorse the proposals that the title of Honorary Alderman be conferred upon:

a. Brenda Hugill

and recommends to the full Council accordingly.

Summary

To enable the Committee to decide which nominations should be referred to full Council for consideration of Honorary Alderman status

Policy

1. This report is submitted in accordance with the Council's policy on the arrangements to be followed in respect of the granting of alderman status to former members of the Council.

Consultation

2. Internal/External

Not applicable - this report is submitted following nominations from the Party.

Context

3. Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972 empowers the Council, by resolution passed by not less than two thirds of the members voting at a meeting specially convened for the purpose, to confer the title of Honorary Alderman on a person who has, in the Council's opinion, rendered eminent services to the Council as a past member.
4. Council have agreed that Audit Committee, in its role of monitoring and ensuring ethical standards and probity within Bristol City Council, should ensure all Honorary Aldermen nominations meet the criteria as set out below before they are forwarded to the Council for approval:

A minimum period of ten years service or having served in a position of significant public responsibility on behalf of the Council or for a Bristol ward on the former Avon County Council.

6. An Honorary Alderman may attend and take part in such civic ceremonies as the Council may from time to time decide. Aldermen are not entitled to receive any members' allowances or other payments of allowances, expenses etc. Whilst a person who is a serving City Councillor cannot be made an Honorary Alderman, the Act does appear to envisage that a person on whom this honour has been conferred may subsequently be re-elected as a Councillor. In these circumstances, the Act specially provides that no Honorary Alderman shall, whilst serving as a city councillor, be entitled to be addressed as Alderman or to attend or take part in any civic ceremonies of the Council as an Alderman.
7. Honorary Aldermen substitute for the Lord Mayor or Deputy Lord Mayor on a relatively infrequent basis. They are also invited to all major civic events, church services and Council meetings. They have no other formal role. Honorary Alderman, from time to time, be nominated by the Outside Bodies Committee, to serve as the Council's representative, on a specific outside body.
8. Council has agreed that the Honorary Aldermen's Association should be supported, but that no support should be provided for individual Honorary Aldermen.

Proposal

9. The Committee is asked to endorse the following Honorary Alderman nomination as follows:

10. Nomination - Brenda Hugill

- 10.1 Brenda Hugill was first elected as a councillor to Lawrence Hill Ward in May 1998.
- 10.2 Brenda has been a member of the Ashley, Easton and Lawrence Hill Neighbourhood Partnership since June 2010;
- 10.3 Brenda served as Lord Mayor of Bristol in 2001/2002, and Deputy Lord Mayor in 2000/01.
- 10.3 Brenda was Chair of the Public Safety and Protection Committee in 2006/2007, and 2010/11 and she has continued to be a member upto and including 2012/13.
- 10.4 Brenda has also been a member of a number of Development Control Committees (South) 2006/07, (North and West) 2007/2009, (Central) 2010/11 and (North) 2011/12.
- 10.5 Brenda has served on a number of Scrutiny Commissions including Children's Scrutiny Commission and Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Commission.
- 10.6 In addition to the above, Brenda has been a member of the Downs Committee for several years.
- 10.7 She has also sat on various panels, including the Corporate Employee, Health and Safety Consultative Committee, Corporate Parenting Panel and the Employee Appeals Panel.
- 10.8 Brenda has represented the Council on a number of outside bodies, including Avon Fire and Rescue Authority, Bristol North South Forum, Bristol University Court, Junction 3, New Deal for Communities in Barton Hill, and Redcliffe Futures.
- 10.9 Brenda was also an associate governor at Redcliffe Children's Centre.

11. Other Options Considered

Not Applicable

12. Risk Assessment

Not Applicable

13. Public Sector Equality Duties

Before making a decision, section 149 Equality Act 2010 requires that each decision-maker considers the need to promote equality for persons with the following “protected characteristics”: age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation. Each decision-maker must, therefore, have due regard to the need to:

- i) Eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct prohibited under the Equality Act 2010.
- ii) Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not share it. This involves having due regard, in particular, to the need to --
 - remove or minimise disadvantage suffered by persons who share a relevant protected characteristic;
 - take steps to meet the needs of persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are different from the needs of people who do not share it (in relation to disabled people, this includes, in particular, steps to take account of disabled persons' disabilities);
 - encourage persons who share a protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity in which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.

Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not share it. This involves having due regard, in particular, to the need to - tackle prejudice; and - promote understanding.

14. Legal and Resource Implications

Legal

As set out in the report

(Legal advice provided by Shahzia Daya, Senior Solicitor, Corporate)

Financial

(a) Revenue

None

(b) Capital

None

Land

None

Personnel

None

Appendices:

None

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

Background Papers: None