

BRISTOL CITY COUNCIL

**AUDIT COMMITTEE
28th JUNE 2013**

Report of: Service Manager, Democratic Services

Title: The Appointment of Honorary Aldermen

Ward: Citywide

Officer Presenting Report:

Contact Telephone Number: 0117 922 2387

RECOMMENDATION

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

- a. Steve Comer**
- b. Bev Knott**
- c. Dr Jon Rogers**

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 – Steve Comer

Details in preparation and to follow

11. Nomination – Bev Knott

Details in preparation and to follow

12. Nomination – Jon Rogers

Details in preparation and to follow

13. Other Options Considered

Not Applicable

14. Risk Assessment

Not Applicable

15. 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.

16. 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

Nominations for Alderman 2013

A. Former Councillor Bev Knott

Bev Knott was first elected as a Liberal Democrat councillor to Bishopston Ward in May 1999.

Member of the Bishopston, Cotham and Redland Neighbourhood Committee since June 2010;

Member on various panels, including the Corporate Employee, Health and Safety Consultative Committee, Corporate Parenting Panel, Selection Committee and the Employee Appeals Panel

Executive Assistant supporting the Executive Member for Children's Services in the areas of Standards and Attainment in 2005

Scrutiny Commission member including Children's Scrutiny Commission and Community Cohesion and Safety Scrutiny Commission. Also a member of the Adult Safeguarding Select Committee.

Member of Development Control Committee (South & East) 2007/09. He was also a member of the Council's Licensing Committee 2007/12.

Liberal Democrat Shadow Cabinet member for Adult Community Care, Health Promotion and Neighbourhoods In 2007/08.

Executive Member for Care and Neighbourhoods in 2009/2010, and Executive Member for Neighbourhoods in 2010/11. during which time he introduced the current model of Neighbourhood Partnerships

Represented the Council on a number of outside bodies, including Asthma UK, Avon Wildlife Trust, Bishopston Society, Bristol and Avon Archaeological Society Bristol University Court, Friends of the Earth (Bristol) Joint Association of Classical Teachers, and Woodland Trust.

Member and Chair of the Management Committee of St Mathias Park Pupil Referral Unit.

Governor of Sefton Park School for 10 years.

B. Former Councillor Jon Rogers

Jon Rogers was first elected as a Liberal Democrat councillor to Ashley Ward in May 2005.

Member of the Ashley, Easton and Lawrence Hill Neighbourhood Committee since June 2010;

Served on various Scrutiny Commissions and Development Control Committees during his time as a councillor.

Deputy Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group during 2007/08;

Executive Member for Transport and Sustainability : Feb 2009 – May 2010;

Executive Member for Health and Social Care May : 2010 – May 2012;

Deputy Leader of Council and Executive Member for Resources : May 2012 – November 2012;

Chair of the Shadow Health and Wellbeing Board : May 2011 to November 2012

C. Former Councillor Steve Comer

Steve Comer was elected as a Liberal councillor to former Bristol (District) Council in 1983 representing Easton Ward. During that time, he served as Deputy Leader of the Liberal Group from 1983-1986, and Leader of Group 1986-87. Served on Planning, Personnel, DLO and Policy and Resources Committees

First elected as a Bristol City Council Liberal Democrat councillor for Eastville Ward on 5 May 2005

Member of the Greater Fishponds Neighbourhood Committee since June 2010

Member of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee 2007 – 2013 including several terms as its Chair

Chair of the Resources Scrutiny Commission 2007/08

Member of the Human Resources Committee 2007 – 2013 including holding office of Chair for most of this time

Member of Employee Joint Consultative Committee 2007 – 2009 and the successor Joint Employee Relations Board 2009 – 2013 including holding office of Chair

Member of Corporate Employee Health and Safety Consultative Committee 2007 – 2013

Member of Development Control (North and West) Committee 2008 – 2010 and Development Control (North) Committee 2010 – 2013

Member of Public Rights of Way & Greens Committee 2012 – 2013

Member of Licensing Committee 2011 - 2013

Member of Joint West of England Scrutiny Committee 2010 – 2013

Executive Member for Central Support Services and Customer Excellence
2006/2007

Deputy Leader of Council 2006/2007

Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group 2007/2008

Member of the Avon Fire Authority

Member of the Local Government Association Workforce Board

Helped re-establish the Stapleton Conservation Society

Represented the Council on a number of outside bodies, including Alzheimer's Society, Avon Fire Authority, Campaign for Real Ale, Electoral Reform Society, Friends of Suburban Bristol Railway, National Secular Society, Trustee of the Eastville Club, and South West Provincial Employers.

Chair of the employer platform of the Council for European Municipalities and Regions from 2011-2013