

**BRISTOL CITY COUNCIL**

**AUDIT COMMITTEE  
14<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2014**

**Report of:** Service Manager, Democratic Services (Interim)

**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. Guy Poultney**
- b. Stephen Williams**

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 – Guy Poultney**

Details attached at appendix A

## **11. Nomination – Stephen Williams**

Details attached at appendix A

## **12. Other Options Considered**

Not Applicable

## **13. Risk Assessment**

Not Applicable

## **14. 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.

## **15. 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:** Appendix A - Nominations details

## **LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985**

**Background Papers:** None

**Nominations for Alderman 2014**

**A. Former Councillor Guy Poultney**

Guy Poultney was first elected as a Liberal Democrat councillor to Lockleaze Ward in May 2009.

Member of the Horfield and Lockleaze Neighbourhood Committee since June 2010, serving as Chair 2012/13;

Member on various panels, including the Bristol Development Framework Advisory Panel

Scrutiny Commission member including Resources Scrutiny Commission

Member of Development Control Committee (Central) 2009/10, Development Control Committee (Enterprise Zone) and Public Safety and Protection Committee (Vice Chair 2010/11). He was also a member of the Council's Licensing Committee 2009/13, serving as Chair 2010/11.

Executive Member for Neighbourhoods in 2011/2012, and he also serviced as part of the elected Mayor's Cabinet, as Cabinet Member for Housing, Planning and Regeneration (2012/13).

Represented the Council on a number of outside bodies, including Bristol Green Capital Partnership, Devon and Severn Inshore Fisheries Conservation Area, Regional Strategic Board for Migration, Thriving Neighbourhood Board and the Bristol Legacy Commission.

Director of Destination Bristol, Governor Fairfield High School, Member of Lockleaze Voice Neighbourhood Development Forum and Lockleaze Voice, Governor Lockleaze Primary School and Early Years Centre

## **B. Former Councillor Stephen Williams**

Stephen Williams was first elected as a Liberal Democrat councillor to Cabot Ward in May 1993.

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

Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group during 1995/97.

Member of Bristol Arts Panel, Bristol Building Preservation Trust Limited, Planning, Transport and Development Committee, Council for the Preservation of Ancient Bristol, Joint Disciplinary Appeals Sub-Committee, Joint Planning Consultative Committee, Joint Highways and Transportation Consultative Committee, Planning Transport and Development (Special Purposes) Sub-Committee; Tripartite Liaison Meetings (Avon County Council/ Bristol City Council/Bristol Development Corporation), and West of England Initiative.