

**Bristol City Council**

**Audit Committee**

**27<sup>th</sup> June 2014**

**Report of:** Democratic Services Manager

**Title:** The Appointment of Honorary Aldermen

**Ward:** Citywide

**Officer Presenting Report:** Democratic Services Officer

**Contact Telephone Number:** 0117 92 22908

**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/Alderwoman\* be conferred upon:

- a. Sean Emmett**
- b. Peter Main**
- c. Dr Doug Naysmith**
- d. Sylvia Townsend\***

(Sylvia Townsend has requested that she be known as an Alderwoman)

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. Nominations**

- (i) **Sean Emmett** - Details contained in Appendix A
- (ii) **Peter Main** - Details contained in Appendix B
- (iii) **Dr Doug Naysmith** - Details contained in Appendix C (To follow)
- (iv) **Sylvia Townsend** - Details contained in Appendix D

## **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:**

**Nominations for Alderman**

**Appendix A – Details of Sean Emmett**

**Appendix B – Details of Peter Main**

**Appendix C – Details of Dr Doug Naysmith**

**Appendix D – Details of Sylvia Townsend**

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

**Background Papers:** None

### **Sean Emmett**

Career details.

First Elected : February 2000 representing Lockleaze Ward

Served on various committees, commissions and working groups, including Anti-Social Behaviour group and Post Office Closures group. Chaired the Resources Scrutiny Commission in 2010/11. Served on Housing, then Quality of Life Scrutiny Commissions. Board Member of the Bristol Community Housing Foundation.

Assistant Executive Member responsible for Human Resources issues  
2011/12

Governor, Lockleaze School.

Also Governor Fairfield High School and Filton Avenue Infants School.

## **Appendix B**

### **Peter Main**

#### Career details

First Elected : May 1997 representing Brislington West Ward

Served on Housing Committee, Social Services Committee, Neighbourhood Scrutiny Committee , Overview and Scrutiny Committee , Licensing Policy Review Board (chair) Development Control (North) Committee , Public Rights of Way and Greens Committee, Downs Committee (chair) , Health and Wellbeing Committee, Brislington Neighbourhood Committee

#### Outside Bodies:-

Governor, Brislington Enterprise College, Governor , West Town Lane Academy, Trustee, Arnos Vale Cemetery Trust Brislington Neighbourhood Partnership

Lord Mayor of Bristol 2012/13

Deputy Lord Mayor of Bristol 2013/14

## **Appendix C**

**Dr Doug Naysmith (To follow)**

## **Appendix D**

### **Sylvia Townsend**

First elected in May 1999 as Liberal Democrat Councillor for Redland..  
Served on Health Scrutiny from the beginning of the Pilot Study in 2002.  
Chair for 6 years.

Joint Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee She also served on the Great Western Ambulance Service Joint Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee.  
Governor at Redland Green School. Governor at Colston's primary School until 2013.

Member of & Chair of the Quality of Life Commission.

Member of the Select Committee on Libraries & the Select Committee on Museums.

Member of Rights of Way & Greens Committee.

Member of the Downs Committee.