

**Bristol City Council
Audit Committee
25 September 2015**

Report of: Democratic Services Manager

Title: Appointment of Honorary Aldermen

Ward: Citywide

Officer Presenting Report: Democratic Services Officer

Contact Telephone Number: 0117 9222908

RECOMMENDATION

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

- a. Neil Harrison
- b. Barbara Janke
- c. Alex Woodman

and recommends these appointments 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 Liberal Democrat group. The issue was discussed at the most recent informal meeting of the party group whips.

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 member 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, may 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 Aldermen nominations, as follows:

10. Nominations

- (i) - Details contained in Appendix A – Neil Harrison
- (ii) - Details contained in Appendix B – Barbara Janke
- (iii) - Details contained in Appendix C – Alex Woodman

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, Service Manager and Deputy Monitoring Officer)

Financial

(a) Revenue

None

(b) Capital

None

Land

None

Personnel

None

Appendices:

Nominations for Alderman

Appendix A – Details of service of Neil Harrison

Appendix B – Details of service of Barbara Janke

Appendix C – Details of service of Alex Woodman

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

Background Papers: None

APPENDIX A

Neil Harrison

- Liberal Democrat Councillor for Cotham ward 2007-2015.
 - Assistant Executive Member for Sustainability 2009-2012
 - Chair of the Sustainable Travel Select Committee 2008 - 2009
 - Chair of the Bristol Development Framework Panel 2008 - 2009
 - Chair of the Licensing Policy Scrutiny Board 2013-2014
 - Corporate Parenting Panel, Member 2007 - 2015
 - Member of the Public Rights of Way and Town Greens Committee, 2009-2012
 - Full Council Meeting, Role: Member, Start: 15 May 2007
 - Licensing Policy Scrutiny Board, Role: Member, Start: 21 May 2013
 - Quality of Life Scrutiny Panel, Member 2007-2009
 - Neighbourhood Partnership - Bishopston, Cotham and Redland, Role: Member, Start: 07 Jun 2010
 - Lib Dem Lead on Environment and Energy
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- Commissioned and led on the walking strategy for the City of Bristol 2010-2012
 - Cllr Achievement Awards 2011 - Neil was short listed for his work supporting Bristol as a Green Capital.
 - Councillor Neil Harrison assistant executive, responsible for work on the Green Futures programme and providing assistance to the member for Children and Young People (May 2012).
 - Neil played a leading role in developing the three Green Capital bids that helped win Bristol Green Capital 2015
 - Neil helped the Council develop its strategy on renewable energy - solar panels at 30 schools, ELENA, foundations for the local energy company.
 - In Cotham Neil devised the 'Winning Whiteladies' local shopping regeneration project.
 - In Cotham Neil led on various road safety projects, including 20mph, RPZ and new pedestrian crossings.

APPENDIX B

Barbara Janke

- Barbara was the elected councillor for Clifton ward for 20 years, from 1995-2015
- Barbara was the Liberal Democrat leader of Bristol City Council for over 6 years; from 2003 to 2004, 2005 to 2007 and from 2009 to 2012.
- She was leader of the Liberal Democrat group for over 14 years, from 1997 to 2007, and 2008 to 2012.
- In August 2014 Cllr Janke was named as one of six new Liberal Democrat working peers, becoming Baroness Janke of Clifton for the City and County of Bristol. She is the only Bristol Councillor to also serve simultaneously as a Life Peer in the House of Lords.
- Barbara served in the Mayors Cabinet as Assistant Mayor for Health and Connected Cities.
- Barbara made a case in the House of Lords for further devolution of power to Local Government and recently moved a successful amendment with regards to mayoral referendums for the City of Bristol.
- As Leader, Barbara chaired the city's local strategic partnership, the Bristol Partnership, and at the launch of the West of England's Local Enterprise Partnership, she was its first local authority chair.
- Barbara has taken a strong role in various community groups and organisations including serving as a school governor, a member of various regeneration partnerships and environmental groups.
- Barbara was the first non-Labour Leader of Bristol City Council for 20 years. Under her leadership the council launched a massive investment programme into primary schools and led the council to focus on sustainability and the environment. This focus and policy led to Bristol winning European Green Capital 2015.

APPENDIX C

Alex Woodman

- Alex was elected as the councillor for Cabot ward in 2007, and was re-elected in 2011. At the age of 23, when first elected he was the youngest member of the Council at the time.
- He chaired the Sustainable Development and Transport Scrutiny Commission from 2008-2009, before spending six years chairing a Development Control Committee.
- During his time as a planning committee chair, Alex gained the respect of residents, fellow councillors and officers for his understanding of planning issues, and his commitment to ensuring that both objectors to and proponents of developments got a fair hearing in front of the committee.
- Alex also served as a member and Vice Chair of the Licensing Committee, as well as being a member of the SD&T Scrutiny Commission, of other planning committees, and the Cabot, Clifton and Clifton East Neighbourhood Partnership.
- Believing that councillors should actively encourage people from under-represented groups to stand for election, Alex participated in the Operation Black Vote Councillor Shadowing Scheme, and various Local Democracy Week events aimed at engaging young people in the political process.
- As a ward councillor, Alex was a vociferous advocate for the residents of his ward. When first elected, he recognised the issues caused by chronic commuter parking in Kingsdown, and campaigned for a residents' parking zone to tackle the problem. Despite receiving hate mail, Alex pushed ahead knowing that it was the right thing to do. The RPZ was introduced in 2011 and now has near-universal approval among local people.
- More recently, his motion to Full Council on protecting Bristol's parks received unanimous support. It was inspired by the disastrous Love Saves the Day event in Castle Park in 2013 and the impact this had on the ability of Bristol residents to use their parks and green spaces.
- Recognising the damaging health impacts of poor air quality, particularly for Cabot ward residents, Alex also campaigned with fellow councillor Mark Wright for the introduction of a Low Emission Zone for Bristol.