

**BRISTOL CITY COUNCIL**

**FULL COUNCIL MEETING**

**29 JUNE 2010**

**REPORT OF:** Service Director – Legal Services

**TITLE:** HONORARY ALDERMEN

**WARD:** CITYWIDE

**RECOMMENDATION**

1. That Full Council awards Aldermanic status to Mary Sykes, David Kitson, Royston Griffey, John Bees, Martin Kerry and Spud Murphy.

**Summary**

This report explains the policy for conferring the title of Honorary Alderman, describes the role and function of persons who hold that office and presents details of the offices held by the above named. A note of the decision of the Standards Committee meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> June 2010 is also included at paragraph 6.

**The significant issues in the report are:**

Paragraphs: 1-6 - Criteria and background of the process.

Paragraph: 7 - Details of offices held by the nominees.

**Policy**

The proposal accords with the Council's policy on conferring the office of Honorary Alderman on former Council members.

**Consultation**

Party Whips.

Standards Committee.

## Context

1. 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.
2. Council have agreed that Standards 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.**

3. 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.
4. 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.
5. Council has agreed that the Honorary Aldermen's Association should be supported, but that no support should be provided for individual Honorary Aldermen.
6. The Standards Committee at their meeting on the 10<sup>th</sup> June 2010 considered the nominations and recommended that Mary Sykes, David Kitson, Royston Griffey, John Bees, Martin Kerry and Spud Murphy be made Honorary Alderman of the City and County of Bristol.

## **Proposal**

7. The Service Director – Legal Services requests Council to consider the Honorary Alderman nominations as set out below:

### **A. Mary Sykes**

Mary Sykes was first elected as a councillor to Hengrove Ward in 1999.

She has been a member of South and East Development Control Committee, formerly the Planning Committee for her tenure, including the role of Chair for a number of years.

Mary has been a member of the Public Safety and Protection Committee (the former Licensing Committee) ever since joining the Council in 1999 and the new Licensing Committee ever since it was set up in 2005 of which she is currently the Chair.

She currently sits on Health and Quality of Life Scrutiny Commissions. In previous years she has also been a member of Social Developments, Sustainable Development & Social Justice, Education & Lifelong Learning and Environment Transport & Leisure Scrutiny Commissions.

She chaired the Sustaining Voluntary Organisations Select Committee in 2005/2006 and also the Museums and Archives Select Committee in 2008/2009. She was also a member of the School Exclusions Select Committee and the Equalities Sub Committee.

Other Committees Mary has been involved in are the Appeals Committee, Selection Committee, Corporate Employees Health and Safety Consultative Committee and the Public Rights of Way and Greens Committee. Also Outside Bodies such as in recent years; Bristol Buildings Preservation Trust, Bristol Threatened History Society, Lower Severn Drainage Board and Wessex Water Customer Liason Panel.

### **B. David Kitson**

David Kitson was first elected Councillor to Bishopston Ward in 1998 and was Deputy Lord Mayor during the 2003 to 2004 civic year.

He has been a member of all the Development Control Committees throughout his tenure.

He has been a member of Scrutiny Commissions Quality of Life, Physical Environment, Environment Transport and Leisure, Corporate Affairs and Scrutiny Management Committee, Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee and Central Support Services and Cabinet Scrutiny Commission.

David has also been a member of Select Committees about; The Employment and Retention of Disabled people in the Workplace, The Council's Properties & Assets, and Chair of the Local Bus Services Select Committee.

Other Committees David has been involved in are the Corporate Employee Health and Safety Consultative Committee, HR Committee and Employees Joint Consultative Committee. Also Outside Bodies such as in recent years; Avon Fire Authority, Bristol Buildings Preservation Trust, Bristol Blue Plaque Committee and the Conservation Advisory Panel for all 12 years.

### **C. Royston Griffey**

Royston Alan Griffey, a retired lawyer and former Deputy Principal Crown Counsel with the Hong Kong Government, was first elected to Bristol City Council in May 2002, being re-elected in May 2006.

He had the honour to serve as the Lord Mayor of Bristol in the municipal year 2007-2008, and as the Deputy Lord Mayor for the years 2005-2006; 2006-2007 and 2008-2009. He has been a Justice of the Peace since 2000.

He has always been interested in planning law, and has been a member of all three Development Control Committees during his tenure of office as a Councillor, and was Vice-Chair of DC North last year. He has also served as a member of the Licensing Committee; the Appeals Committee, the Avon Fire Authority and the Forest of Avon Partnership.

During his service as a Councillor, Royston has been involved with several scrutiny commissions, including the Resources Scrutiny Commission and the Environment, Transport and Leisure Scrutiny Commission, as well as being a member of the Property and Assets Select Committee and Tackling Anti-Social Behaviour Select Committee.

He was a long serving school governor with Witherwood Community School, and has been a member of the Council of the University of Bristol and the Bristol Cultural Development Partnership. He also maintains a very keen and continuing involvement with The Matthew of Bristol.

Royston celebrates the completion of half a century of public service in August, having commenced work with the Port of Bristol Authority in 1960.

## **D. John Bees**

John Bees was first elected in a by-election for Kingsweston Ward in 1992 and has served continuously as a councillor until May 2010.

In 1993 he was chair of the Contract Services Committee and has chaired many committees since - including the Resources Committee.

He has served as an Executive Member of the Council on a number of occasions and was central to the decision-making process involving complex land deals on behalf of the Council, which brought about the developments at the Harbourside, Cabot Circus and the regeneration of the Symes Avenue area of Hartcliffe.

He was also a key decision-maker in the establishment of major council office buildings at Romney House, Lockleaze, B Bond, Harbourside and the new Somerfields Building in Hartcliffe.

Committees: Contract Services (Ch), Resources (Ch), Personnel Committee (Ch), Drainage Board, Airport Board, Executive Member Resources, Broadmead Board, Harbourside Board, Audit Committee, Planning Committee, Licensing Committee, Human Resources (Ch), Avon Fire Authority, Avon Pension Scheme, South West Provincial Employers (Ch), S.W. Regional Board– Employers Board.

He is a school governor at St Bede's and Sea Mills Infants and then Sea Mills Primary schools and has served on Avonmouth CofE School.

## **E. Martin Kerry**

Former Postman, first elected to Bristol City Council (for Southmead) May 1992 - 1995. Later re-elected for Horfield 1998 -2010. During his time on Council served on various Committees, including Housing, Leisure, Health, Equalities and Planning. Latterly, he was also a member of the Avon Fire Authority.

Martin was a school governor for Upper Horfield Primary School and served on a local voluntary body - the Upper Horfield Community Trust.

Between May 2002 - 2008, Martin held the Group Officer position of Conservative Chief Whip.

## **F. Albert 'Spud' Murphy**

Successful local businessman, Spud has been described in the media as a genuine 'one-off'. First elected to Bristol City Council (for Avonmouth) in 2002 - 2010. Spud lost his seat in the elections this year after a declared dead heat and the drawing of the winner's name from a ballot box.

During his time on Council, Spud has served on many Council Committees, including Licensing, Public Safety & Protection and the Development Control (North) Committee. In addition, he has been a member of several Outside Bodies such as the Lower Severn Drainage Board, Severnside Sirens Trust Limited and the Bristol Port Welfare Committee.

Spud has been a school governor at the Portway School - now Oasis Academy Brightstowe.

While on the Council, he was a tireless campaigner for the people in his ward but Spud is also renowned for his unpaid community work throughout Avonmouth, Shirehampton and Lawrence Weston.

### **Other Options Considered**

Not applicable

### **Risk Assessment**

Not applicable

### **Equalities Impact Assessment**

Not applicable

### **Legal and Resource Implications**

<b>Legal</b>	As set out in the report
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<b>Financial</b>	As set out in the report
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<b>Revenue</b>	None
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<b>Capital</b>	None
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<b>Land</b>	None
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<b>Personnel</b>	None
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<b>Appendices:</b>	None
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### **ACCESS TO INFORMATION**

#### **Background Papers**