

BRISTOL CITY COUNCIL
EXTRAORDINARY FULL COUNCIL MEETING
19 JANUARY 2016

REPORT OF: Interim Service Director – Legal & Democratic Services

TITLE: APPOINTMENT OF HONORARY ALDERMEN

WARD: Citywide

RECOMMENDATION

- That Full Council confers the title of Honorary Alderman upon former councillors Neil Harrison, Baroness Barbara Janke and Alex Woodman.

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 / service by the above named.

The significant issues in the report are:

- Paragraphs 1-6 - Criteria and background of the process.
- Paragraph 7 - Proposal and 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 Group Leaders and Whips.
Audit 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 has agreed that the 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.

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 Audit Committee at its meeting on 25 September 2015 considered the nominations and recommended to Full Council that Neil Harrison, Baroness Barbara Janke and Alex Woodman be made Honorary Aldermen of the City and County of Bristol.

Proposal

7. The Audit Committee requests Council to consider the Honorary Alderman nominations as follows (details of service):

a. **Neil Harrison**

Details of service:

- Liberal Democrat councillor for Cotham ward 2007-15
- Assistant Executive Member for Sustainability 2009-12
- Chair of the Sustainable Travel Select Committee 2008-09
- Chair of the Bristol Development Framework Panel 2008-09
- Chair of the Licensing Policy Scrutiny Board 2013-14
- Member of Corporate Parenting Panel 2007-15
- Member of the Public Rights of Way and Greens Committee 2009-12
- Member of Quality of Life Scrutiny Commission 2007-09
- Member of Bishopston, Cotham and Redland neighbourhood partnership 2010-15
- Liberal Democrat lead member for environment and energy
- Led on the walking strategy for Bristol 2010-12
- Councillor achievement awards 2011 – nominated for work supporting Bristol as a Green Capital.
- As an assistant executive member, responsible for work on the Green Futures programme and providing assistance to the Executive Member for Children and Young People (2012)
- Helped to develop the Green Capital bids.
- Helped the Council develop its strategy on renewable energy (solar panels at 30 schools; ELENA; foundations for local energy company).
- In Cotham, helped devise the “Winning Whiteladies” local shopping regeneration project, and led on various road safety projects, including 20 mph, RPZ and new pedestrian crossings.

b. Baroness Barbara Janke

Details of service:

- Liberal Democrat councillor for Clifton ward for 20 years 1995-2015
- Liberal Democrat Leader of the Council for over 6 years – from 2003-04, 2005-07 and 2009-12.
- Leader of the Liberal Democrat group for over 14 years, from 1997-2007, and from 2008-2012.
- As Council Leader, chaired the city's local strategic partnership, the Bristol Partnership, and West of England local enterprise partnership. Key focuses included an investment programme in schools, and a focus on sustainability and environment and taking forward Green Capital bids.
- Served in the Mayor's Cabinet as Assistant Mayor for Health and Connected Cities
- Member of Cabot, Clifton and Clifton East neighbourhood partnership 2010-15.
- As a local councillor, served on various community groups, including serving as a school governor, and on various regeneration partnerships and regeneration groups.
- In August 2014, named as a new working peer, becoming Baroness Janke of Clifton for the City and County of Bristol – the only Bristol councillor to also serve simultaneously as a life peer in the House of Lords.

c. Alex Woodman

Details of service:

- Liberal Democrat councillor for Cabot ward 2007-15. When first elected, became the youngest member of the Council at that time (aged 23).
- Chair of Sustainable Development and Transport Scrutiny Commission 2008-09; also served as an ongoing member of this commission.
- Chair of Development Control Committee 2009-15
- Member and Vice-Chair of Licensing Committee
- Member of Cabot, Clifton and Clifton East neighbourhood partnership 2010-15
- Actively 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 local councillor, actively campaigned in support of residents parking in Kingsdown, a low emission zone for Bristol and put forward a motion to Full Council (approved with received unanimous support) about protecting Bristol's parks.

Other Options Considered

Not applicable

Risk Assessment

Not applicable

Equalities Impact Assessment

Not applicable

Legal and Resource Implications

Legal	As set out in the report
Financial	None
Land	None
Personnel	None

Appendices

None