

Values and Ethics Sub-Committee

Agenda



Date: Thursday, 24 June 2021

Time: 5.00 pm

Venue: City Hall, College Green, Bristol BS1 5TR

Distribution:

Councillors: Adebola Adebayo, Zoe Goodman, Gary Hopkins and Jonathan Hucker

Copies to: Nancy Rollason (Head of Legal Service), Allison Taylor (Democratic Services Officer), Lucy Fleming (Head of Democratic Engagement), Louise deCordova (Democratic Services Manager) and Simba Muzarurwi (Chief Internal Auditor)

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Date: Wednesday, 16 June 2021



Agenda

1. Welcome, Introduction and Apologies for absence

2. Declarations of Interest

3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

To follow

4. Honorary Alderman Nomination

(Pages 3 - 7)



Values and Ethics Sub Committee

24th June 2021



Report of: Tim O' Gara, Service Director – Legal and Democratic Services

Title: **Honorary Aldermen Nomination**

Ward: N/a

Officer Presenting Report: Louise deCordova, Democratic Services Manager

Contact Telephone Number: 0117 352 6151

Recommendation

That the Value and Ethics Sub Committee considers the nomination for Honorary Aldermen, which has been submitted by the Conservative Group, and makes a recommendation to Full Council regarding the appointment.

Summary

The report provides information to enable the Sub-committee to consider and decide which Alderman nominations should be recommended to Full Council for approval.

The significant issues in the report are:

As set out in the report and the Appendix to the report.



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. The nomination was submitted by the party whip on behalf of the Conservative Group.

Context

3. Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972 empowers the Full Council, by a 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. The Full Council has agreed that the Values and Ethics Sub-Committee of the Audit Committee, in its role of monitoring and ensuring ethical standards and probity within the Council, should ensure that all Honorary Alderman nominations meet the set criteria, and accordingly recommend appointments as appropriate.
5. The criteria governing the appointment of Aldermen was approved by Full Council on 17th January 2017. Details as follows;
 - An individual will be eligible for nomination and appointment to the role of Honorary Alderman/woman provided that he/she is no longer a serving Councillor with Bristol City Council; and
 - has provided eminent service to the Council throughout a long and distinguished period of public service by:
 - a. Serving for a minimum period of two electoral terms as a Bristol City councillor (i.e. having been elected twice as a councillor).

AND

- b. Holding a significant position of public responsibility with Bristol City Council, for a minimum period of one calendar year or one municipal year, as either:
 - Lord Mayor;
 - Elected Mayor;
 - Deputy or Assistant Mayor;
 - Leader of the Council;
 - Executive Member;
 - Any other position attracting the payment of a Special Responsibility Allowance under the Council's approved members allowance scheme (excluding attendance at the Appeals Committee).

OR

- c. Long service as a Bristol City Councillor for an aggregate period of at least 10 years.
- 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 Aldermen may, from time to time, be nominated to serve as the Council's representative on specific Outside Bodies.
- 8. The Council has agreed that the Honorary Aldermen's Association should be supported but that no support should be provided for Aldermen on an individual basis.

Proposal

- 9. A nomination has been received from the Conservative Group for the appointment of former Councillor Peter Abraham as Honorary Aldermen. A statement from the Conservative Group in support of the nomination is set out in the Appendix.

Other Options Considered

- 10. Not applicable.

Risk Assessment

- 11. Not applicable.

Summary of Equalities Impact of the Proposed Decision

- 12. Not applicable.

Legal and Resource Implications

- 13. Not applicable.

Financial / Land / Human Resources

- 14. Not applicable.

Appendix – Statement from the Conservative Group in support of the nomination.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

Background Papers:

None

Alderman Nomination: Peter Abraham

June 2021

Bristol's longest serving city councillor, Peter Abraham, stood down from Bristol City Council in May 2021.

He combined a career as a successful local businessman with public service for virtually all his adult life.

Peter Abraham was first elected onto Bristol City Council in 1966 for Stockward ward. He spent eight years on Avon County Council before it was disbanded and returned to serve the people of Stoke Bishop ward from 1983 to 2021.

During his 55 years in local politics, Peter has served on virtually every Bristol City Council committee, decision-making body and outside body including acting as Chairman of the Council's Development Control Committee, Public Rights of Way, Avon Fire Authority, Avon and Somerset Police Panel and the Downs Committee. He has been a long serving and active member of the Licensing Committee.

Prior to the switch to the Mayoral system, he held positions at various times as Council Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Education & Lifelong Learning.

A born and bred Bristolian, Peter was especially proud to have held the office of Lord Mayor on 3 separate occasions. As Lord Mayor, Peter instigated the first Lord Mayor's charity dinner (now an annual fundraiser) with the money going to the local underprivileged children's charity, which raises money to make the lives of underprivileged Bristol children a little better - purchasing books, Christmas presents and other items for them.

Locally in his ward Peter has involved himself in numerous campaigns and in recent times has fought to save the former Bristol & West site from commercial development (now a wildlife site maintained by Avon Wildlife Trust), has supported open public access to local green spaces including the Downs, and has lobbied to keep open libraries in Sea Mills and Westbury on Trym.