

Values and Ethics Sub Committee

26th November 18



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

Title: **Honorary Aldermen Nominations**

Ward: N/a

Officer Presenting Report: Louise deCordova, Democratic & Scrutiny Manager

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Recommendation

That the Audit Committee considers the nominations for Honorary Aldermen, which have been submitted by the respective political groups, and makes a recommendation to Full Council regarding the relevant appointments.

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 nominations were submitted by the party whips, on behalf of their respective groups.

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 17. 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. Nominations received for the appointment of Honorary Aldermen are set out below.
 - The Labour group has nominated former Councillor Christopher Orlick.
 - The Liberal Democrat group has nominated former Councillor Claire Champion Smith.
10. Statements/ details in support of the nominations, as supplied by the political groups are set out in Appendix A.

Other Options Considered

11. Not applicable.

Risk Assessment

12. Not applicable.

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.
- iii) 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.

Legal and Resource Implications

Legal

As set out in the report.

Financial / Land / Human Resources

Not applicable.

Appendices:

Appendix A - Statements/ details in support of the Honorary Aldermen nominations, as supplied by the respective political groups.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

Background Papers:

None