

Values and Ethics Sub Committee

20th January 2020



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

Title: **Honorary Aldermen Nomination**

Ward: N/a

Officer Presenting Report: Louise deCordova, Democratic & Scrutiny Manager

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Recommendation

That the Values and Ethics sub Committee considers the nomination for Honorary Aldermen, which has been submitted by the Labour 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 whether the nomination received 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 Labour 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 recommend nominations for appointment 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.

Proposal

6. A nomination has been received from the Labour Group for the appointment of former Councillor Mike Langley as Honorary Aldermen. A statement from the Labour Group in support of the nomination is set out in the Appendix.

Other Options Considered

7. Not applicable.

Risk Assessment

8. 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

This is a nomination for a posthumous award. S249 of the Local Government Act 1972 does not refer to posthumous awards. It does not prohibit such an award being made. The Committee may therefore consider the nomination and whether in all the circumstances, a recommendation should be made to Full Council

(Legal advice provided by Nancy Rollason – Head of Legal Services)

Financial / Land / Human Resources

Not applicable.

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

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

Background Papers:

None