

Extraordinary Full Council

6th July 2021



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

Title: **Appointment of Honorary Aldermen**

Ward: Non-applicable

Recommendation

That Full Council considers the recommendations of the Audit Committee and the Values and Ethics Sub Committee (of the Audit Committee) and confers the title of Honorary Alderman of the City and County of Bristol upon former councillor Peter Abraham.

The significant issues in the report are:

As set out in the report.



Policy and context

1. 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/woman on a person who has, in the Council's opinion, rendered eminent services to the Council as a past member.
2. 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 initially consider Aldermen/women nominations, and make recommendations to Full Council on their appointment, using criteria as approved by Full Council.
3. An Honorary Alderman/woman may attend and take part in such civic ceremonies as the Council may from time to time decide. Aldermen/women are not entitled to receive any member allowances or other payments of allowances, expenses etc.
4. Honorary aldermen/women may substitute for the Lord Mayor or Deputy Lord Mayor on a relatively infrequent basis. They are also invited to civic events. They have no other formal role. Honorary aldermen/women may, from time to time, be nominated to serve as the Council's representative on specific outside bodies.

Proposal

5. The Values and Ethics Sub Committee (of the Audit Committee) and the Audit Committee have agreed to recommend that Full Council confers the title of Honorary Alderman upon former Councillor Peter Abraham.
6. Statement/details of the service of former councillor, as originally supplied by the political group when the nomination was submitted, and as considered by the Values and Ethics Sub Committee (of the Audit Committee) and the Audit Committee are set out in the appendix.

Legal and Resource Implications

Legal

As set out in the report.

(Legal advice provided by Tim O'Gara, Service Director – Legal & Democratic Services)

Financial / Land / Human Resources

Not applicable.

Appendix A: Statements/ details in support of the Honorary Aldermen/women nominations, as supplied by the political group, and as considered by the Values and Ethics Sub Committee (of the Audit Committee) and the Audit Committee.

Appendix A

1. Alderman Nomination: Peter Abraham

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.