

Values and Ethics Sub Committee

23 November 2021



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

Title: **Honorary Aldermen Criteria**

Ward: N/a

Officer Presenting Report: Democratic Services Manager

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Recommendation

That the Value and Ethics Sub Committee considers the proposed update to the Honorary Alderman criteria for nominations, and makes a recommendation to Full Council to endorse the new criteria for future Alderman and Alderwoman appointments.

The significant issues in the report are:

The report sets out the proposed amendment to Honorary Alderman and Alderwoman criteria for future appointments.

Policy

1. 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.

Consultation

2. The proposed amendment was put forward by Members of the Values and Ethics Sub Committee at their meeting on 27th July 2021 that '*a long and distinguished period of public service*' should include service as an Avon County Councillor. This was considered by Party Group Leaders at their meeting on 18th October 2021.

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 current 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

5. That the criteria be amended 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 (including Avon County 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 or Avon County Councillor for an aggregate period of at least 10 years, with at least one term served as a Bristol City Councillor.

Other Options Considered

6. Not applicable.

Risk Assessment

7. Not applicable.

Summary of Equalities Impact of the Proposed Decision

8. Not applicable.

Legal and Resource Implications

9. Not applicable.

Financial / Land / Human Resources

10. Not applicable.

Appendix A – Proposed amendment to the Alderman/woman nomination criteria – tracked changes

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

Background Papers:

None