

# Extraordinary Full Council

29 November 2016



**Report of:** Shahzia Daya, Service 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 confers the title of Honorary Alderman of the City and County of Bristol upon former councillors Gus Hoyt, Bill Payne, Simon Cook, the late David Morris, Alastair Watson and Mike Wollacott, and confers the title of Honorary Alderwoman of the City and County of Bristol upon former councillor Jenny Smith.**

## 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 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 Audit Committee has agreed to recommend that Full Council confers the title of Honorary Alderman upon former councillors Gus Hoyt, Bill Payne, the late David Morris\*, Simon Cook, Alastair Watson and Mike Wollacott, and has agreed to recommend that Full Council confers the title of Honorary Alderwoman upon former councillor Jenny Smith.
- 6.** Statements/ details of the service of the above named, as originally supplied by the political groups when nominations were submitted, and as considered by the Audit Committee are set out in the appendix.

\* Note: At the Full Council meeting on 8 November 2016, it was agreed that the Bristol City Council criteria be varied to permit a posthumous award, so as to allow the award of Honorary Alderman to be bestowed upon David Morris at this Extraordinary Full Council meeting.

## **Legal and Resource Implications**

### **Legal**

As set out in the report.

**(Legal advice provided by Shahzia Daya, Service Director – Legal & Democratic Services)**

**Financial / Land / Human Resources**

Not applicable.

**Appendix:** Statements/ details in support of the Honorary Aldermen/women nominations, as supplied by the respective political groups, and as considered by the Audit Committee.

**Appendix - Statements/ details of service regarding the Honorary Aldermen/women nominations, as supplied by the political groups and as considered by the Audit Committee:**

**Statement from the Green group in support of the nomination of Gus Hoyt:**

“Details of Gus Hoyt’s service:

Years of service: 5

Significant positions held: Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods; Party Group Whip.

Reasons for nomination: Gus was the first ever Green Party Cabinet Member in Bristol. He prioritised and pushed through significant investment in renewables and energy efficiency and championed larger schemes such as tidal lagoons. He campaigned for and championed local and sustainable food systems, and initiated the return of parks and waste/recycling management as in-house Council services. He oversaw vast reinvestment to raise the standards of council housing and ensured no-one was evicted due to the 'Bedroom Tax'. Gus also pioneered the alternative, less hierarchal, Green approach to the role of party whip.”

**Statement from the Labour group in support of the nomination of Bill Payne:**

“Details of Bill Payne’s service:

- Labour councillor for Frome Vale Ward 2005-2009 and 2013-2016 (has lived in Frome Vale for almost 40 years)
- Member of the Development Control Committee
- Member of Licensing Committee, chairing numerous subcommittee sessions
- Member of Downs Committee
- Member of Health Scrutiny Commission during first term as councillor
- Member and Co-Chair of Physical and Sensory Impairment Partnership Board during second term as councillor
- Member of Avon Fire Authority
- One of the things most proud of during time as councillor is being the council appointee to the Bristol Hospital Education Service Board of Governors. Became Chair of Governors and during the tenure BHES was seen by OFSTED to be an ‘Outstanding’ school.
- Was appointed to the Chair of the Bristol Threatened History Society
- During first period of councillor, was elected by the Labour Group to be Deputy Whip (Group Treasurer).
- Vice-Chair of Labour Group (2013-16)

Bill Payne has also submitted this comment personally: “The achievement I would like to be remembered for is working with the residents of Frome Vale to improve the quality of life; in other words the case work. Helping with housing problems, with waste collection issues and helping disabled and elderly residents access home improvements that can make a huge difference to their quality of life. Working with the Independent Living Fund group to help oversee the changes and make them as painless as possible. Discussions with site developers to see what can be done to mitigate disruption to the surrounding residents.

I have always maintained that it's these 'little' things that make a huge difference to people's lives and its ward councillors who are best placed to help and solve these issues. And, of course, being a Labour councillor."

**Statement from the Conservative group in support of the nomination of the late David Morris:**

"It is with great pleasure that the Conservative group chose to put forward David Morris to be made an Honorary Alderman of the City and County of Bristol.

David doubly met the criteria for this award having completed well over the required minimum 'period of service' and through service 'in a position of significant public responsibility on behalf of the Council'.

Many will not be aware that he represented a Bristol ward, Stockwood, both on Avon County Council (1993-96) and then after a brief interregnum, on the City Council itself from 1999-2016.

During his time with the authority, David was Chairman of the Social Services & Health Scrutiny Commission (2005) and chaired the Public Safety & Protection Committee. He was Vice-Chairman of the Children's Scrutiny Commission, as well as being a long-standing Member of the Licensing Committee. In addition to these responsibilities, David gave diligent service on the Corporate Parenting Panel; numerous Appeals Committees; and sat on a number of outside bodies. These include the Bristol Foster Care Panel; Bristol Trust for the Deaf; and spent one year as a Council representative/Director on the Board of the Bristol Port Company.

Furthermore, David is fondly remembered for the time he spent as Deputy Lord Mayor from January-May 2013. The position had suddenly become vacant due to Cllr Geoff Gollop taking up the finance portfolio in the new Elected Mayor's first Cabinet. Together with his wife Kathryn, they fulfilled their respective duties in this important supporting role with customary good humour and friendliness.

The bare facts of this service do not do justice to the calibre of councillor concerned. For many years, David carried out his democratic and civic duties despite increasingly deteriorating health. He bore this burden without complaint or self-pity. The way he countered these physical challenges was really quite inspirational.

Aside from working tirelessly for the people of Stockwood, David had a long record of supporting children's and church charities in his ward. A former employee of the Cadbury's chocolate factory in Keynsham, he often donated confectionary for consumption or auction. Kath's baking skills were also frequently in demand on these occasions. When his health allowed, David regularly appeared as Father Christmas at parties held for disadvantaged children.

David Morris was an exemplary Member of Council, loyal, steadfast and utterly dependable. He always maintained the highest standards in office and was well-loved and respected by politicians drawn from across the party-divide. His contribution to public life was noteworthy and memorable. In sum, his place in the city's Aldermanic ranks was well-earned."

**Statement from the Liberal Democrat group in support of the nomination of Simon Cook:**

“Details of Simon Cook’s service:

- Simon was elected to Bristol City Council in 1999 and was re-elected four times up until when he stood down in 2016.
- Served as an Executive Member and as Deputy Leader in the Liberal Democrat administrations of 2005-7 and 2009-12.
- Simon served as the City’s Lord Mayor for the municipal year 2004-5.
- Simon was elected Leader of the council's Liberal Democrat group and then Leader of the Council in May 2012.
- Simon was the last Council Leader under the previous system of governance before Bristol's first directly elected mayor was chosen in November 2012.
- Simon is a leading advocate for the cultural life of Bristol and sat on the Boards of the Bristol Old Vic, @Bristol, Arnolfini and the Bristol Cultural Development Partnership.
- Simon also sat on the Regional Council of Arts Council England and Bristol University Council.
- Simon was a member of George Ferguson’s cross party cabinet holding the portfolio for culture, sport and the business change and place directorates.
- In 2009, Simon launched the development of the Bristol Music Trust to take the Colston Hall out of direct Council control, introducing greater expertise and flexibility to the operation in line with similar venues around the country.
- Simon was a member of the West of England Local Transport Board, the Infrastructure and Place Group and the Planning, Housing and Communities Board for the year 2015/16.”

**Statement from the Conservative group in support of the nomination of Alastair Watson:**

“Alastair Watson was first elected to serve Westbury-on-Trym Ward in May 2010. He was re-elected in May 2014 until May 2016. During these six years, he has held a number of ‘significant positions of public responsibility’ which easily satisfies the qualifying criteria of what is deemed to constitute ‘eminent service’ to the Council. Most notably, Alastair was appointed Lord Mayor of the City & County of Bristol from 2014-15, later serving as Deputy Lord Mayor from 2015-16.

Together with his wife Sarah, they made a formidable couple as Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress, fulfilling this role with great distinction. It is widely accepted that they brought a fresh sensitivity, friendliness and intelligence to their respective roles whilst in office. Alastair also used this time to help raise money for good causes (Lord Mayor’s Children Appeal) by memorably running the Bristol Half Marathon in his Mayoral robes; joining Father Christmas on a festive float; and hosting the first annual Lord Mayor’s Gala Dinner, which generated £20k proceeds to charity.

In addition, he held a business summit on employment and skills for disadvantaged young people which led, in turn, to the task force to set up the Bristol Engagement Hub for employment in high-tech and creative industries at the newly established Temple Quarter Enterprise Zone.

Alastair was Cabinet Member for Children, Young People & Skills (CYPS) in Mayor George Ferguson’s first ‘Rainbow’ Cabinet (February – May 2013), and before that was the Chairman of the Children’s Services Scrutiny Commission 2011-2013. He served as a lead Member on the Education & Skills Mayoral Commission which was convened to find better ways of helping young people develop and get into work. As well as chairing the Learning City Action Group (2015-16) which engaged with local

employers to develop the Engagement Hub on the TQEZ, Alastair was an energetic member on the Learning for and in Work Challenge Group.

During his time on Council, he has sat on many of the main scrutiny bodies, namely: Audit; Quality of Life; Resources; Place; and People Scrutiny Commissions. Whilst these roles did not attract an SRA for the strict or narrow purposes of determining eligibility for this nomination, they represent a record of his having made a significant contribution to civic life and public service.

As a ward councillor, Alastair was particularly active in supporting the Westbury-on-Trym Business Association; has been a strong advocate in representing the interests of his constituents; working for improved play facilities in Canford Park; and supporting community initiatives through the local Neighbourhood Partnership.

Finally, aside from his commitment to helping young people, mention should be made here of Alastair's continuing involvement in a wide range of voluntary work. He is currently Honorary President of the 1830 Squadron Air Cadets; remains a British Rowing national umpire; Chairman of the Bristol-Hannover-Bordeaux Twinning 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations 2017; and is a member of the Local Enterprise Partnership High-Tech Sector Group which seeks to build on our success of attracting more top rated companies (and greater investment) into the South West region.

It is submitted that all of these achievements deserve or merit wider, more public recognition through the conferment of the title of Honorary Alderman."

### **Statement from the Labour group in support of the nomination of Jenny Smith:**

"Details of Jenny Smith's service:

Terms served as a Labour Councillor:

- Avon Country Councillor for Henbury 1985 – 1993
- Southmead – Avon County Councillor 1993 – 1994
- Southmead - Councillor for Avon and Bristol during the transition stage 1994 – 1995.

Bristol City Councillor Unitary Authority from 1994 – 2016

(8 years Henbury – 23 Years in Southmead)

Positions held on Avon County Council 1985 – 1995:

- Avon – Labour Lead for the Gypsy and Traveller committee
- Avon – Assistant Whip with David White
- Member of Social Services for the whole of the time she was on Avon.
- Was on the Avon and Somerset Police Committee from 1985 – 1995
- Represented Avon County Council on Southmead Health Authority which is now North Bristol Health Trust 1985 –1992.
- Also a member of the South West Provincial Council - which covered Avon & Regional Staff Employment Issues.
- Avon Highways and Transport Committee 1985 – 1986, 1994 – 1995.
- Represented Avon County on Berkley and Oldbury Power Stations area as an Avon County Council representative.
- Nominated by Avon County as a Member of the Bristol University Court from 1985 – 1995.

Bristol City Council:

- 1996 - 1999 Vice-Chair of Social Services Committee
- Chair of Social Services Committee
- Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care until 2002.
- Took over Social Services with a budget which was 23% above SSA and got it down to 11.5% in 3 - 4 years.
- 2002 – 03 Cabinet Member for Sustainable Development, Equalities and Social Justice:
- Put in the first Wind turbine at Avonmouth to test its viability.
- As Chair of H & SC was on the Joint Consultation Committee for Health, Social Care and Housing where Alderwoman Celia Lukins and she initiated the first Very Sheltered Housing Policy for Older People, and agreed we would build 600 properties.
- Nominated by the City as a Member of the Bristol University Court on a number of occasions
- Served as a Non-Executive Member of United Bristol Health Trust 1998 – 2002.
- Member of Bristol Personnel and Central Services Committee 1995 – 96.
- Avon and Somerset Police Committee – Bristol City Representative from 1997 – 98.
- Bristol Nominee to Bristol Community Health Council on two separate occasions for a number of years. Convened working parties and collated and wrote reports during that time. This ceased when she became a Non Exec Member of United Bristol Health Trust.
- Bristol Nominee Consultee on South West Environment Committee – approximately four years.
- Chair of the Bristol Prostitution Forum.
- Councillor Representative on the Southmead Development Trust, formerly called the Greenway Trust from 1994 – 2016.

Bristol City Council Committees 1993 – 2016:

- Social Services
- Health and Social Care
- Environment Committee
- People Committee
- Licensing
- Rights of Way
- Staff Appeals
- Housing, and involved in 2 Housing Special Working Parties.

Other activities:

- Governor over the years of 14 Schools, 13 of them were in the city of Bristol.
- Given a long term award in 2011 when she stood down from Little Mead Primary School in Southmead.
- Received four B Tecs awards for Training and certificate from Warwick University in Local Authority management.”

**Statement from the Labour group in support of the nomination of Mike Wollacott:**

“Details of Mike Wollacott’s service:

- Labour councillor for Brislington East 2010-16



- Regards it as an honour and a privilege to represent the good people of Brislington East over the past 6 years. It has been a particularly challenging period for local government, but a progressive narrative put forward by the vast majority of local councillors has helped to mitigate the worst impact of central government cuts.
- During this time, he has been actively involved with the Greater Brislington Neighbourhood Partnership, ensuring that local infrastructure is maintained and enhanced. He is particularly pleased that through this forum, protection was given to the area's green spaces and library service.
- Member of Licensing Committee since 2010.
- Member and Chair (for one year) of Quality of Life scrutiny commission.
- Member of HR Committee since 2010.
- Chair of HR Committee in recent years:
  - Pushed for greater support for front line staff and the introduction of the Living Wage, as well as pushing opposition to the Trade Union Act to help to preserve a good working relationship with our in house trade unions."