



Leicester
City Council

WARDS AFFECTED

FORWARD TIMETABLE OF CONSULTATION AND MEETINGS:

Council

23 May 2013

Honorary Aldermen

Report of the Monitoring Officer

1. PURPOSE AND SUMMARY OF REPORT

To consider amendments to the criteria for appointment to the position of Honorary Aldermen.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS (OR OPTIONS)

That the amendments to the nomination criteria for the title of Honorary Aldermen indicated in paragraph 3.4 of the report be approved.

3. REPORT

3.1 Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972 allows the City Council to 'confer the title of Honorary Alderman on persons who have, in the opinion of the Council, rendered eminent services to the Council as past Members of that Council but who are not then Councillors of the Council.' Such a decision must be made by a resolution passed by not less than two thirds of the Members voting thereon at a special meeting of the Council. Thus, the title can only be conferred upon past Members of the Council who are not Councillors at the date of that meeting.

3.2 In addition to this Council has previously agreed that:

- the title of Honorary Alderman should be awarded to a Councillor at the end of their front-line political career (i.e. they should not seek public office after being awarded the title if they should do so they should forgo the title).
- It should be awarded after significant service (for the avoidance of doubt this should be a minimum of 8 years as a Councillor); and
- the Councillor should not have previously held the position of Lord Mayor as former holders of this office are already recognised by the Council and the title of Honorary Alderman is to recognise those who have contributed but not have attained the title of Lord Mayor.

3.3 An Honorary Alderman may attend and take part in such civic ceremonies as the Council may from time to time decide, does not, as such, have the right to attend

meetings of the Council or to receive any allowance or other payment under the Members Allowances Scheme.

3.4 When the Council originally agreed to adopt the position in 2006 it was stated that the 'political Group Leaders (would) give consideration to this matter every four years immediately after the City Council elections'. Whilst the appointments have been very well received experience has indicated that these provisions are unnecessarily restrictive. It is therefore suggested that nominations be considered (where requested):

- in the first year after full Council elections, and thereafter in subsequent years (and no more than once per year) after consultation with the Director of Delivery Communications and Political Governance and that;
- Nominations would be received from Group Leaders or Members not part of a political group for consideration by a Special meeting of Council. For a nomination to be approved by Council it must receive the support of two thirds of the Members voting.

4. FINANCIAL, LEGAL AND OTHER IMPLICATIONS

4.1. Financial Implications

The only financial implication is the cost of the appointment of Honorary Aldermen, for which the council has specific statutory power to incur. This cost should not be significant and can be met within existing budgets.

Steve Charlesworth, Head of Finance, Financial Control.

4.2 Legal Implications

Legal implications are covered in the report.

5. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

OTHER IMPLICATIONS	YES/NO	Paragraph Within the Report	References
Equal Opportunities	N		
Policy	N		
Sustainable and Environmental	N		
Crime and Disorder	N		
Human Rights Act	N		
Elderly/People on Low Income	N		
Corporate Parenting	N		

6. BACKGROUND PAPERS – LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

None

7. CONSULTATIONS

8. REPORT AUTHOR

Kamal Adatia, Monitoring Officer