

**Licensing, Health and Safety and General Purposes Committee**  
**Wednesday, 25 May 2016**

<b>REPORT TITLE:</b>	<b>Conferral of the Title of Honorary Alderman</b>
<b>REPORT OF:</b>	<b>Strategic Director: Transformation and Resources</b>

## **1.0 REPORT SUMMARY**

- 1.1 This report requests the Committee to give consideration to whether to recommend to the Council that the title of Honorary Alderman be conferred on former Councillors Harry Smith and Pat Williams.

## **2.0 BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES**

- 2.1 Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972 provides that the title of Honorary Alderman may be conferred by the Council on persons who have, in its opinion, rendered eminent service to the Council as past Members of this Council, (or a predecessor Council), but who are no longer Councillors. The title is to be conferred by a resolution passed by not less than two thirds of the Members voting on it at a meeting of the Council specially convened for the purpose.
- 2.2 Honorary Aldermen are invited to attend Council meetings in a non-participating capacity. They do not to receive any allowances or payments under section 173 to 176 of the Local Government Act 1972. Honorary Aldermen are also invited to attend and take part in civic ceremonies such as Civic Sundays and Remembrance Sundays and other appropriate civic events. The names of Honorary Aldermen are inscribed on a Roll of Honour board on the first floor landing of Wallasey Town Hall.
- 2.3 Previously, the Council determined that former Members who have served twenty years on the Council or a predecessor Council are eligible for nomination to this Award. Successful nominees have been awarded a suitable badge at a special ceremony.
- 2.4 Currently former Councillors Harry Smith and Pat Williams are the only persons eligible to be appointed as Honorary Aldermen.

## **3.0 HARRY SMITH**

- 3.1 Former Councillor Harry Smith was a Member of the Council from 1991 to 2015 (24 years) and served on the Cabinet from May 2011 to February 2012 and from May 2012 to May 2014.

#### **4.0 PAT WILLIAMS**

4.1 Former Councillor Pat Williams was a Member of the Council from 1987 to 2016 (29 years) and was Mayor of Wirral in 2002/03.

#### **5.0 RELEVANT RISKS**

5.1 There are no risks associated with this report.

#### **6.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

6.1 The alternative option is not to consider Harry Smith and Pat Williams for the position of Honorary Alderman.

#### **7.0 CONSULTATION**

7.1 Political Group Leaders have been consulted on these proposals.

#### **8.0 OUTSTANDING PREVIOUSLY APPROVED ACTIONS**

8.1 None.

#### **9.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR VOLUNTARY, COMMUNITY AND FAITH GROUPS**

9.1 None.

#### **10.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: FINANCIAL; IT; STAFFING; AND ASSETS**

10.1 It would be the intention to present both Mr Smith and Mrs Williams with a badge of office, the total cost of which is approximately £1,200. There will also be the small cost of inscribing their names on the Roll of Honour board which can be met from existing budgets.

10.2 It is also customary for the Council to cover the cost of any hospitality provided for the newly appointed Honorary Aldermen and a select number of guests. There is no specific budget head for this but the funding required can be allocated from the Civic Services catering budget.

#### **11.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

11.1 The formal decision to confer the status of Honorary Alderman must be ratified by an Extraordinary Meeting of the Council. It is proposed that the Extraordinary Meeting be held at 5:45pm on Monday, 11 July 2016, immediately before the Ordinary Council Meeting.

#### **12.0 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

12.1 Has the potential impact of your proposal(s) been reviewed with regard to equality?

No because there is no relevance to equality.

### **13.0 CARBON REDUCTION AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS**

13.1 None.

### **14.0 PLANNING AND COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS**

14.1 None.

### **15.0 RECOMMENDATION/S**

15.1 That the Council be recommended to confer the title of Honorary Alderman on former Councillors Harry Smith and Pat Williams, in accordance with Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972.

### **16.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S**

16.1 The former Councillors are eligible to have the title of Honorary Alderman conferred upon them under the criteria used. The recommendation provides the Committee with the opportunity of give consideration to this and to put forward a subsequent proposal to the Council.

**REPORT AUTHOR:** Shirley Hudspeth  
Committee and Civic Services Manager  
Telephone (0151) 691 8559  
Email shirleyhudspeth@wirral.gov.uk

### **APPENDICES**

None.