



North Devon Council

Report Date: Wednesday, 4 October 2023

Topic: Appointment of Aldermen/Alderwomen

Report by: Chief Executive

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972, empowers the Council to confer the title of Honorary Alderman. The title can be conferred on persons who have, in the opinion of the Council, rendered eminent services as past Members of that Council, but who are not then Councillors. NDC's Constitution also provides for the appointment of honorary Aldermen/Alderwomen.
- 1.2. The Procedures Committee at its meeting on 20 February 2012 considered the process for the appointment of Honorary Aldermen and recommended that the appointment of Aldermen be considered every four years following the ordinary election of Councillors.
- 1.3. At the last full Council meeting, Members considered whether to hold an extraordinary Council to consider the possible appointment of Honorary Alderman and decided to do so.
- 1.4. Groups Leaders have been asked to make nominations and these form the recommendations below.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1. That Council appoint the following people to be Honorary Aldermen/Alderwomen in recognition of the long and eminent service that each has given to North Devon Council, to local government and to the community:

Geoffrey Fowler
Yvette Gubb
Derrick Spear
Frederick (Joe) Tucker

3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1. To obtain Council's view on whether it wishes to confer the title of Honorary Aldermen/Alderwomen on the four nominations.

4. REPORT

- 4.1. The Act provides for the title of Honorary Aldermen/Alderwomen to be conferred 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.

4.2. To do this, the Act requires:

4.2.1. A specially convened extraordinary Council meeting for the appointment of the title of Honorary Aldermen/Alderwomen.

4.2.2. A Council resolution passed by not less than two-thirds of the Members voting

4.3. Any Alderman/Alderwomen subsequently elected a Member of the Council would, while serving as a Member of the Council, no longer be entitled to be addressed as Honorary Alderman/Alderwomen or to attend or take part in any civic ceremonies of the Council in that capacity.

4.4. An Honorary Alderman/Alderwoman may attend and take part in such civic ceremonies as the Council decides, but doesn't have the right to:

4.4.1. Attend and take part in Council meeting or committees, or

4.4.2. Receive such allowances or other payment as are payable to Members of the Council.

4.5. Nominations have been sought from Group Leaders and these are reflected in the recommendations.

4.6. The existing Honorary Aldermen/Women are Michael Edmunds, Des Brailey and Faye Webber.

5. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

5.1. None, except the convening of a special Council meeting and the printing of certificates.

6. EQUALITIES ASSESSMENT

6.1. There are no equalities implications anticipated as a result of this report.

7. ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

7.1. There are no environmental implications arising from these proposals.

8. CORPORATE PRIORITIES

8.1. What impact, positive or negative, does the subject of this report have on:

8.1.1. The commercialisation agenda: Not applicable

8.1.2. Improving customer focus and/or: Not applicable

8.1.3. Regeneration or economic development: Not applicable

9. CONSTITUTIONAL CONTEXT

9.1. The decision in respect of the recommendations in this report can be made pursuant to Article 4.5.10 of the Constitution.

10. STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY

This report contains no confidential information or exempt information under the provisions of Schedule 12A of 1972 Act.



11. BACKGROUND PAPERS

The following background papers were used in the preparation of this report:
Local Government Act 1972.

12. STATEMENT OF INTERNAL ADVICE

The author (below) confirms that advice has been taken from all appropriate Councillors and Officers: Chief Executive, Director of Resources and Deputy Chief Executive, Head of Governance, Solicitor and Monitoring Officer.