

DECISION-MAKER:	GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE		
SUBJECT:	REVIEW OF THE CONSTITUTION – CRITERIA FOR CONFERRING ALDERMEN STATUS		
DATE OF DECISION:	23rd APRIL 2018		
REPORT OF:	SERVICE DIRECTOR: LEGAL & GOVERNANCE		
<u>CONTACT DETAILS</u>			
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STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY			
None			
BRIEF SUMMARY			
To consider adopting criteria for conferring the status of Honorary Alderman in the City			
RECOMMENDATIONS:			
	(i)	That Governance Committee considers this report and resolves to recommend to Council as appropriate	
REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS			
1.	There is currently no adopted criteria for conferring the Honorary Alderman status in the City; proposals are left to discretion. In light of an increase in grants recently it is considered by Group Leaders that criteria may be appropriate to ensure equity.		
ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED			
2.	To leave the Constitution silent as at present		
DETAIL (Including consultation carried out)			
	Section 249 Local Government Act 1972 states		
3.	“A principal council, may confer the title of honorary aldermen 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 members of the council. No honorary alderman, while serving as a member of the council, is entitled to be addressed as alderman or to attend or take part in any civic ceremonies of the council as an alderman. An honorary alderman of a principal council may attend and take part in such civic ceremonies as the council may from time to time decide, but does not, as such have the right:		
	1.	To attend meeting of the council or a committee of the council (including a joint committee upon which it is represented), or	
	2.	To receive allowances or other payments.’	

4.	There is nothing in law that helps define “eminent service” so it is up to each authority to decide what suits best. Interestingly locally some, such as Winchester CC, Isle of Wight UA and New Forest DC, do not appoint out of convention. Fareham BC have appointed five or six Aldermen in the last two years as several very long standing members (15 years +) have retired.	
5.	From a survey of others locally few have set criteria, it is left to judgement. However, Havant BC has the most prescriptive as below:	
	1.	any former Councillor considered for appointment to the Aldermanic Bench must have served for a minimum of eight years;
	2.	subject to (1) above, any former Councillor nominated must have given outstanding service to the Council over and above a Councillor's normal duties; (which normal duties are defined in the Council's Constitution at Article 2.3 (a)). In particular they must have:
	a.	been a Chairman for at least two years of a principal member-level body, that being of the Cabinet, the Overview and Scrutiny Board, the Regulatory Committees, and other such Committees established from time to time; or
	b.	a member of the Cabinet for at least three years; or
	c.	Mayor of the Borough; and/or
	d.	given other outstanding service to the Borough.
6.	There is no obligation or requirement to set criteria but those adopted by Havant do not seem unreasonable for members to consider as a starting point.	
7.	Appendix 1 is a list of the current list Honorary Aldermen and when they were appointed.	
RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS		
<u>Capital/Revenue</u>		
8.	None	
<u>Property/Other</u>		
9.	None.	
LEGAL IMPLICATIONS		
<u>Statutory power to undertake proposals in the report:</u>		
10.	S.249 Local Government Act 1972	
<u>Other Legal Implications:</u>		
11.	None	
RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS		
12.	None.	
POLICY FRAMEWORK IMPLICATIONS		
13.	None.	

KEY DECISION?	No
WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED:	None
<u>SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION</u>	
Appendices	
1.	List of current Aldermen
Documents In Members' Rooms	
1.	None
Equality Impact Assessment	
Do the implications/subject of the report require an Equality and Safety Impact Assessment (ESIA) to be carried out.	No
Privacy Impact Assessment	
Do the implications/subject of the report require a Privacy Impact Assessment (PIA) to be carried out.	No
Other Background Documents	
Other Background documents available for inspection at:	
Title of Background Paper(s)	Relevant Paragraph of the Access to Information Procedure Rules / Schedule 12A allowing document to be Exempt/Confidential (if applicable)
1.	None