

Item No. 2.1	Classification: Open	Date: 1 December 2010	Meeting Name: Council Assembly
Report title:		Honorary Alderman/Alderwoman Nominations	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All	
From:		Constitutional Steering Panel	

RECOMMENDATION

1. That the proposed recipients for the title of Honorary Alderman/Alderwoman, as set out in paragraph six, be agreed.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2. Section 249(1) of the Local Government Act 1972 allows the 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 but who are not current members. The Act was amended in 2009 to include the title of "Honorary Alderwoman".
3. Such conferment must be agreed by the council by resolution passed by not less than two thirds of the members present at a meeting, specially convened for that purpose.
4. The council has power under Section 249(6) to spend a reasonable sum as it considers fit for the purpose of presenting an address or a casket containing an address to such Honorary Alderman/Alderwoman.
5. The criteria for conferment of the title of Honorary Alderman/Alderwoman is as follows:
 - a) That nominations recognise service to the council and nominees must have served on the council for at least two full terms before being considered for the title;
 - b) That the award not be conferred automatically on councillors upon retirement from the council;
 - c) That Past Mayors and Freepersons should not be included in nominations;

KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

6. Past members eligible for the title Honorary Alderman/Alderwoman are:
 1. Paul Bates
 2. James Gurling
 3. Kim Humphreys
 4. Jelil Ladipo
 5. Caroline Pidgeon
 6. Robert Smeath
 7. Richard Thomas
 8. Dominic Thorncroft
 9. Lorraine Zuleta
7. Should an Honorary Alderman/Alderwoman wish to stand again as a member of the council then, if he or she were elected, they would no longer be eligible to be addressed by the title or to attend or take part in any civic ceremonies of the council as an alderman.

8. If council assembly agree to confer the honour a ceremony for presentation of the title of Honorary Alderman/Alderwoman on former councillors is arranged. It is proposed that the ceremony to confer the title be held in conjunction with the Civic Awards ceremony on 7 May 2011 at St Georges Cathedral at 2.00 pm, followed by afternoon tea in the Amigo Hall.
9. All nominees are written to asking whether they are willing to accept the title.
10. The office of Honorary Alderman/Alderwoman does not convey with it any legal rights or responsibilities other than a ceremonial role at civic functions. They may attend and take part in civic ceremonies as the council decides but shall not, as such, have the right to attend meetings of the council or receive any allowances or other payments.
11. Honorary positions were last conferred after the 2006 election.

Resource implications

12. Honorary alderman ceremonies occur once every administration and can be managed within existing staff and financial resources. A scroll and badge on ribbon will be presented to each Alderman/Alderwoman to commemorate the occasion. The council will supply an Alderman/Alderwoman robe for recipients to wear at the ceremony and any following civic events.

Legal implications

13. Legal issues are outlined in the body of the open report.

Community impact statement

14. This report has little direct impact but should be seen as recognition of the contribution of elected members to community representation and cohesion as well as the promotion of civic pride and responsibility.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
Southwark constitution	On line	Lesley John, Constitutional Team, 020 7525 7228

AUDIT TRAIL

Lead Officer	Graham Love, Head of Democratic Services	
Report Author	Graham Love, Head of Democratic Services	
Version	Final	
Dated	16 November 2010	
Key Decision?	No	
CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / CABINET MEMBER		
Officer Title	Comments Sought	Comments included
Strategic Director of Communities, Law & Governance	No	No
Finance Director	No	No
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