

Item No. 2.1	Classification: Open	Date: 22 March 2023	Meeting Name: Council Assembly (Extraordinary Meeting)
Report title:		Honorary Alderman/Alderwoman Nominations 2023	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All	
From:		Constitutional Steering Panel	

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the proposed recipients for the title of Honorary Alderman/Alderwoman as set out in the closed report be agreed.
2. That officers write to all nominees to seek confirmation that the named individuals would wish to accept the title.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

3. 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".
4. 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.
5. The council has power under Section 249(6) to spend a reasonable sum as it considers fit for the purpose of presenting an address to such Honorary Alderman/Alderwoman.
6. 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.
7. In accordance with council assembly procedure rule 5.2 the criteria used to consider conferring the title of Honorary Alderman/Alderwoman is approved by the council.

8. On 8 July 2015, council assembly at an extraordinary meeting agreed that on a case by case basis where exceptional circumstances apply, the title may be conferred on former councillors who fall outside of criteria a) to c) above.
9. Under the council's constitution, the constitutional steering panel shall consider the nominations and make recommendations to council assembly for the purpose of honouring or conferring the title of Honorary Alderman/Alderwoman.
10. Honorary positions were last conferred after the 2018 election. The nominees were agreed by an extraordinary council assembly meeting on 24 May 2021.

KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

11. If council assembly agrees to confer the honour, a ceremony for presentation of the title of Honorary Alderman/Alderwoman on former councillors is arranged.
12. Should council assembly agree to confer the title, all nominees will be written to ask whether they would wish to accept the title.
13. 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.
14. 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.
15. Following the elections in 2022, Appendix 1 of the closed report is a list of former councillors who are eligible based on the criteria for conferment.

Policy framework implications

16. This report is not considered to have direct policy implications.

Community, equalities (including socio-economic) and health impacts

17. 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.

Climate change implications

18. There are no direct climate change implications arising from this report.

Legal implications

19. Legal comments are incorporated within the report.

Financial implications

20. Honorary Alderman/Alderwoman ceremonies occur once every four years and can be managed within existing staff and financial resources. A certificate will be presented to each Alderman/Alderwoman to commemorate the occasion

Consultation

21. Consultation has been undertaken with the Mayor, Group whips and relevant officers.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
Southwark constitution	On line	Constitutional Team Tel: 020 7525 7228

APPENDICES

No.	Title
None.	List of councillors (see closed report)

AUDIT TRAIL

Lead Officer	Doreen Forrester-Brown, Assistant Chief Executive – Governance and Assurance	
Report Author	Chidilim Agada, Head of Constitutional and Member Services Jacqui Brazil, Civic Officer	
Version	Final	
Dated	8 March 2023	
Key Decision?	No	
CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / CABINET MEMBER		
Officer Title	Comments Sought	Comments included
Assistant Chief Executive – Governance and Assurance	Yes	Incorporated in the report
Strategic Director of Finance and Governance Services	No	No
Cabinet Member	No	No
Date final report sent to Constitutional Team	8 March 2023	