

**EXETER CITY COUNCIL****AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE****26 JUNE 2013****THE ROLE OF CITY HONORARY ALDERMEN****1. BACKGROUND**

- 1.1 The Local Government Act 1972 Section 249, gives Local Authorities the power to appoint Honorary Aldermen as a reward to those individuals who have given the authority or the City meritorious service.
- 1.2 Most recently in Exeter, this honour has been given to a number of former Councillors who have met the criteria set down by the Council of having served at least 12 years on the Council.
- 1.3 Exeter currently has 20 Honorary Aldermen.

**2. THE ISSUE**

- 2.1 At the recent elections for Devon County Council, two Honorary Aldermen put themselves forward for election, with one being successful.
- 2.2 Whilst there is nothing in legislation or the Council's constitution which debars this, it has long been the convention at the Council that once an individual has been bestowed the honour of Honorary Alderman, they cease to have an active involvement in local politics.
- 2.3 Whilst in the particular case in question above, the Alderman was elected to a seat on Devon County Council, the principle of the appropriateness of being involved in local politics whilst holding a non political honorary position with the City, is, it is felt still the same.

**3. THE PROPOSAL**

- 3.1 Bearing the above in mind, and in particular the current lack of any mention within the Council's constitution to the position of Honorary Aldermen, it is felt appropriate to draw up a scheme specifically surrounding this position.
- 3.2 Such a scheme aims to introduce some protocols which not only protects the position of Honorary Alderman within the City, including the maintenance of the role's separation from the political arena, but also sets down the method by which any applications are to be considered and approved and how, if it is ever felt appropriate, such a position can be removed.
- 3.3 The proposed scheme is attached as Appendix A to this report.

**4. RECOMMENDATION**

- 4.1 That the Council be RECOMMENDED to approve the attached Scheme relating to Honorary Aldermen with immediate effect.

John Street, Corporate Manager, Democratic & Civic Support  
18 June 2013

**Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 (as amended)**  
**Background papers used in compiling this report: None**