

REPORT TO Executive

Date of Meeting: 14th June 2016

Report of: Corporate Manager, Democratic & Civic Support

Title: HONORARY ALDERMEN

Is this a Key Decision?

No

Is this an Executive or Council Function?

Council

1.1 What is the report about?

1.1 This report sets out a proposal to offer the position of Honorary Freeman of the City to Messrs Marcel Choules and Norman Shiel in recognition of their outstanding service to the Council, including their time as Lord Mayor.

2. Recommendations:

2.1 That in accordance with Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972, the Right Worshipful the Lord Mayor be requested to convene an Extraordinary meeting of the Council, on the rising of the Ordinary meeting of the Council on 26 July 2016, to consider granting the position of Honorary Alderman of the City to Messrs Marcel Choules and Norman Shiel.

3. Reasons for the recommendation:

3.1 Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972, gives Councils the power to grant the position of Honorary Alderman of the City to any individual who it feels has given eminent service to the City.

3.2 To this end, an Extraordinary meeting of the full Council must be convened to specifically consider this matter, with two thirds of those present, voting in favour.

3.3 An Honorary Alderman shall be entitled to the following rights and privileges:

- To enjoy the courtesy title of Alderman and to be so addressed.
- In the event of the Council deciding to give some badge, robe or emblem to Honorary Alderman, to wear such badge, robe or emblem on civic occasions.
- At each meeting of the Council to have seats reserved in the public gallery for the use of Honorary Aldermen.
- To receive a copy of each Council summons and a copy of the Council Year Book and Diary.
- To receive invitations to all civic and social events to which Members of the Council are invited.
- To walk in civic procession in a position immediately senior to serving Members.
- To enjoy such other privileges as the Council may confer upon them from time to time.

3.4 If the recommendation contained in this report is accepted by The Executive and subsequently adopted by full Council, an Extraordinary meeting of the Council will therefore be organised immediately after the ordinary meeting of the Council

scheduled for 26 July 2016, when Members will be asked to consider granting the position of Honorary Alderman of the City to Messrs Marcel Choules and Norman Shiel.

- 3.5 The nominations shown below have been received in accordance with the following agreed criteria against which nominations would be considered:-

A person shall be deemed eligible to be enrolled as an Honorary Alderman provided that the person:

- Is not a serving member of Exeter City Council
- Has served as a Member of the City Council for at least 12 years in total
- Has given exceptional service during that period

Marcel Choules

“Marcel was first elected as the representative for St James's Ward around the year 2000. He lost that seat but shortly after was elected for Priory Ward and has been returned there twice since. He is now retiring from the Ward because of ill-health and new family responsibilities.

During his time as a Councillor he has acted as the Deputy Lord Mayor and Lord Mayor and has been a member of a number of Committees, acting as vice chair of some of them. Throughout his time he has been very active on behalf of his constituents and has frequently been mentioned in the local press for his campaigning activities. He remains very popular in the city and is highly regarded by many.”

Norman Shiel

“I am delighted to nominate NORMAN SHIEL for the position of Alderman. Norman has been an excellent councillor for St Leonard's for many years and has represented his constituents on many issues ranging from planning applications and scrutiny and licensing and has always been and operated in a professional manner.”

In response Mr Shiel states:-

“My reaction is one of joy at the prospect of being able to remain involved in the civic life of this wonderful city which I have come to love so much.”

- 4. What are the resource implications including non financial resources.**
- 4.1 Other than a small cost in preparing a suitable ceremonial scroll and hosting a small reception, there are no resource implications.
- 5. Section 151 Officer comments:**
- 5.1 There are no additional financial implications contained in this report.
- 6. What are the legal aspects?**

6.1 Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972, gives Councils the power to grant Honorary Alderman status to any individual who it feels has given eminent service to the City.

7. Monitoring Officer's comments:

7.1 This report raises no issues for the Monitoring Officer.

8. Report details:

8.1 The Council is asked to consider bestowing the honour to Messrs Marcel Choules and Norman Shiel, due to their services to the Council as a Councillor, particularly during their terms of office as Lord Mayor in 2006/07 and 2010/11 respectively, and their on-going and continual support for the Mayoralty and civic events.

9. How does the decision contribute to the Council's Corporate Plan?

9.1 This decision will help promote the City as a regional capital and one which supports those who support and promote the City as such.

10. What risks are there and how can they be reduced?

10.1 There are no risks associated with the proposals.

11. What is the impact of the decision on equality and diversity; health and wellbeing; safeguarding children, young people and vulnerable adults, community safety and the environment?

11.1 None applicable with this decision

12. Are there any other options?

12.1 The Council could decide not to make the award, although it is felt that this would be against the approved criteria.

John Street
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Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1972 (as amended)
Background papers used in compiling this report:-

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