

## **REPORT TO Executive**

**Date of Meeting: 10<sup>th</sup> July 2018**

**Report of: Corporate Manager, Democratic & Civic Support**

**Title: HONORARY ALDERMAN – MARGARET BALDWIN**

### **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 Mrs Margaret Baldwin in recognition of her outstanding service to the Council over her near 12 years of office on the Council.

##### **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 24 July 2018, to consider granting the position of Honorary Alderman of the City to Mrs Margaret Baldwin.

##### **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.
  - 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 24 July 2018, when Members will be asked to consider granting the position of Honorary Alderman of the City to Mrs Margaret Baldwin.

- 3.5 The nomination shown below has 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

*"I wish to nominate Margaret Baldwin for Alderman of the City of Exeter on behalf of the Conservative Group, in recognition of her service to the City, and as Deputy Leader of the Conservative Group"*

- 3.6 In response, Margaret Baldwin says :-

*"When sitting at Council meetings in the Guildhall I was always very conscious of the long history of civic events that must have taken place within its walls. I feel that the mayoralty and associated traditions are an important aspect of our great city of Exeter and to be able to become part of this would be very humbling. I would endeavour to assist the Lord Mayor in maintaining those traditions as and when required to do so."*

#### **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 Mrs Margaret Baldwin, for the reasons as shown in paragraph 3.5 above.

- 8.2 However, her combined length of service amounts to only 11 years and 10 months. This is due to the fact that she was one of the councillors who, in 2010, had their term of office terminated with immediate effect on 5<sup>th</sup> July 2010 as a consequence of the Government's decision to revoke the decision on the Council's unitary status. She was not re-elected until 9<sup>th</sup> September that year.

- 8.3 Mrs Baldwin does not therefore meet the criteria regarding the minimum period required to be considered for the position of Honorary Alderman, but the Council is asked to consider making an exception in these extenuating circumstances which were beyond her control.
- 8.4 During her time on the Council, Mrs Baldwin chaired, at one time or another, each of the then three Scrutiny Committees as well as being instrumental in making financial reporting more understandable and improving the role of scrutiny.
- 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 principles of the approved criteria.

**John Street**  
**Corporate Manager, Democratic & Civic Support**

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

Contact for enquires:  
Democratic Services (Committees)  
Room 2.3  
01392 265275