

REPORT TO Executive

Date of Meeting: 11th June 2019

Report of: Corporate Manager, Democratic & Civic Support

Title: HONORARY ALDERMAN

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 Mr Percy Prowse, in recognition of his outstanding service to the Council over his 12 years of office on the Council, including his time as Lord Mayor in 2014.

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 23 July 2019, to consider granting the position of Honorary Alderman of the City to Mr Percy Prowse.

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 23 July 2019, when Members will be asked to consider granting the position of Honorary Alderman of the City to Mr Percy Prowse.

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

"In the case of Percy Prowse, having served for twelve years as a member of the City Council, he meets the criterion for length of service, as well as the time he served as Lord Mayor in 2014/15. Since then, he has continued to support the Mayoralty and the various civic events."

In response, Mr Prowse has said:-

"I infiltrated this City in 1981 so I am therefore not an Exonian. However, after policing the place for 21 years, the last 12 years in the city centre, I came to realise that this City's history far superseded that of Plymouth where I also served. During the last 12 years I policed so many of the City's civic events that such occasions were a continuance of the City and how it was cherished. The sight of those red robbers trailing in procession was worth stopping the traffic for. On that basis why would I not want to join them and continue to maintain Exeter traditions."

It should be noted that an additional nomination was also received in respect of Mr Peter Wadham, which cannot be progressed as he does not meet the 12 year eligibility criteria.

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 Mr Percy Prowse, in recognition of his outstanding service to the Council over his 12 years of office on the Council, including their time as Lord Mayor 2014.

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.

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

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