

REPORT TO EXECUTIVE

Date of Meeting: 1 October 2024

REPORT TO COUNCIL

Date of Meeting: 15 October 2024

Report of: Director of Place

Title: Honorary Aldermen – Mr Richard Branston

Is this a Key Decision?

No

Is this an Executive or Council Function?

Council

1. What is the report about?

This report sets out a proposal to confer the title of Honorary Alderman of the City of Exeter to Mr Richard Branston in recognition of his eminent services to the council as a past member of 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 15 October 2024, to consider conferring the title of Honorary Alderman of the City of Exeter on Mr Richard Branston.

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 ‘...persons who have, in the opinion of the council, rendered eminent services to the council as a past [member] of that council’.

3.2 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 and

- 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 be organised immediately after the ordinary meeting of the Council scheduled for 15 October 2024, when Members will be asked to consider conferring the title of Honorary Alderman on Mr Richard Branston.

3.5 The nomination 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; and
- Has given exceptional service during that period

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. These costs can be accommodated within existing budgets.

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 provides councils with the power to grant Honorary Alderman status. Section 249 of the Act states that a Council is able to confer the title of honorary alderman ‘...on persons who have, in the opinion of the council, rendered eminent service to the council as past members of that council’. In order to confer the title of honorary alderman, ‘...a resolution passed by not less than two-thirds of the members voting thereon at a meeting of the council specially convened for the purpose to any individual...’ is required.

7. Monitoring Officer’s comments:

7.1 Members will note the legal requirements that need to be satisfied in order to confer the title of honorary alderman. In order to confer the title, Members must be satisfied that, in their opinion, the individual has ‘rendered eminent services to the council’ as a past member of the council.

8. Report details:

8.1 The Council is asked to consider conferring the honour to Mr Richard Branston for the reasons as shown in paragraph 3.5 above.

8.2 Mr Branston terms of office amount to 24 years consecutively and was Cllr for St Leonards Ward, and therefore meet the necessary length of service criteria. He was also Chair of Licensing Committee in 2007-2008

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. Equality Act 2010 (The Act)

11.1 In recommending this proposal no potential impact has been identified on people with protected characteristics as determined by the Act because there are no risks associated with the proposals.

12. Carbon Footprint (Environmental) Implications:

12.1 No direct carbon/environmental impacts arising from the recommendations.

13. Are there any other options?

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

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Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1972 (as amended)

Background papers used in compiling this report:-

None

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