

## **REPORT TO EXTRAORDINARY COUNCIL**

Date of Meeting: 14 October 2025

Report of: Chief Executive

Title: Honorary Aldermen – Mr Graham John “Percy” Prowse

### **Is this a Key Decision?**

No

### **Is this an Executive or Council Function?**

Council

### **1. What is the report about?**

1.1 This report sets out a proposal to confer the title of Honorary Alderman of the City of Exeter to Mr Graham John “Percy” Prowse in recognition of his eminent services to the council as a past member of the council.

### **2. Recommendations:**

2.1 To consider conferring the title of Honorary Alderman of the City of Exeter upon Mr Graham John “Percy” Prowse.

### **3. Reasons for the recommendation:**

3.1 Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972 provides Councils with the power to confer the title of Honorary Alderman on ‘...persons who have, in the opinion of the council, rendered eminent services to the council as past members of that council, but who are not them members of the council’.

3.2 An Extraordinary meeting of the full Council must be convened to specifically consider the proposal. The resolution to grant the title of Honorary Alderman must be passed by not less than two-thirds of the members voting at the meeting.

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

- to enjoy the title of Honorary 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 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 rendered eminent services to the area during that period as a past Councillor

#### **4. What are the resource implications including non-financial resources**

4.1 A small cost in preparing a suitable ceremonial scroll and hosting a small reception would be incurred. 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. Equality Act 2010 (The Act)**

8.1 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.

#### **9. Carbon Footprint (Environmental) Implications:**

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

#### **10. Report details:**

10.1 The Council is asked to consider conferring the honour to Mr Graham John Prowse for the reasons as shown in paragraph 3.5 above.

10.2 Mr Prowse’s terms of office amount to 12 years consecutively and he was a councillor for the Topsham Ward, meeting the necessary length of service criteria. This included his time as Lord Mayor in 2014/15 and as Deputy Lord Mayor in 2012/13.

10.3 He also served as on a number of committees during his terms of office, including Planning Committee, Economy Scrutiny Committee, Place Scrutiny Committee, Leisure Complex and Bus Station Steering Group.

## **11. How does the decision contribute to the Council's Corporate Plan?**

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

## **12. What risks are there and how can they be reduced?**

12.1 There are no risks associated with the proposals.

## **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.

**Chief Executive, Bindu Arjoon**

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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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