

REPORT TO EXECUTIVE

Date of Meeting: 1 June 2021

REPORT TO COUNCIL

Date of Meeting: 20 July 2021

Report of: Corporate Manager, Democratic & Civic Support

Title: Honorary Aldermen – Three Applications

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 offer the position of Honorary Alderman of the City to Mesdames Foggin, Lyons and Robson, in recognition of their outstanding service to 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 20 July 2021, to consider granting the position of Honorary Alderman of the City to Mrs Olwen Foggin, Mrs Rachel Lyons and Mrs Lesley Robson.

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 20 July 2021, when Members will be asked to consider granting the position of Honorary Alderman of the City to Mrs Olwen Foggin, Mrs Rachel Lyons and Mrs Lesley Robson.

3.5 The nominations have each 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

3.6 It is also worth noting, that each of the nominees have held the position of Lord Mayor whilst serving on the Council.

4. What are the resource implications including non financial resources?

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:

There are no additional financial implications contained in this report.

6. What are the legal aspects?

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:

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 Olwen Foggin, Mrs Rachel Lyons and Mrs Lesley Robson, for the reasons as shown in paragraph 3.5 above.

8.2 In the cases of Mrs Foggin and Mrs Lyons, their terms of office amount to 13 and 17 years respectively, and therefore meet the necessary length of service criteria, as well as being Lord Mayor of the City during their terms of office.

8.3 In relation to Mrs Robson, however, her combined length of service amounts to only 11 years and 8 months. This is due to the fact that she was one of the councillors whose term of office was affected as a consequence of the Government's decision, in 2010, to revoke the decision on the Council's unitary status. She was not elected until 9th September that year.

8.4 Mrs Robson 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. It is worth noting, that a similar exception was made when the Council approved a similar application for Honorary Alderman for Margaret Baldwin. As stated above, Mrs Robson, has also held the positions of Deputy Lord Mayor, and Lord Mayor of the City.

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

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?

There are no risks associated with the proposals.

11. Equality Act 2010 (The Act)

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:

No direct carbon/environmental impacts arising from the recommendations.

13. Are there any other options?

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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