

Report To:	COUNCIL	Date:	16 MAY 2019
Heading:	ALDERMEN AND ALDERWOMEN POLICY		
Portfolio Holder:	LEADER OF THE COUNCIL		
Ward/s:	N/A		
Key Decision:	NO		
Subject to Call-In:	NO		

Purpose of Report

To seek approval for the introduction of a policy to appoint Honorary Aldermen and Alderwomen.

Recommendation(s)

To approve the Policy for the Appointment of Honorary Aldermen and Alderwomen as attached to this report.

Reasons for Recommendation(s)

The appointment of Honorary Aldermen/Alderwomen is a means of giving recognition to former Councillors of Ashfield District Council who in the opinion of the Council have rendered eminent service to the Council and the District.

Alternative Options Considered

(with reasons why not adopted)

The Council may choose not to introduce such a policy.

Detailed Information

Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972 provides that the title of Honorary Alderman/Alderwoman can be conferred on persons who have, in the opinion of the Council, rendered eminent services to the Council as past members of the Council, but who are no longer members of the Council.

In order to confer the title of Honorary Alderman/Alderwoman a meeting of the whole Council needs to be convened specifically for this purpose and the resolution passed by not less than two thirds of the voting Members present at that meeting.

The legislation does not define “eminent service”. It is proposed that the award should not be bestowed on a former member unless they served as a Member of Ashfield District Council for a minimum of 8 years and made a significant contribution to the Council and the District of Ashfield.

It is proposed that Honorary Aldermen/Alderwomen will be presented with:

- A Framed Certificate of Conferral of the Status of Honorary Alderman/Alderwoman which will carry the Common Seal of the Council and be witnessed by the Chairman of the Council and the Chief Executive;
- A Badge of Office including the title ‘Honorary Alderman/Alderwoman’.

Following the presentation the Honorary Alderman/Alderwoman will be asked to sign the “Book of Honorary Aldermen/Alderwomen” and will be afforded the opportunity to address the Council meeting.

It is proposed that Honorary Aldermen/Alderwomen:

- May be invited to attend and take part in civic events, including the Annual General Meeting, organised by the Council;
- Be entitled to wear the badge of ‘Honorary Alderman/Alderwoman’ at such civic events within the District. The badge of Honorary Alderman/Alderwoman must only be worn at civic events outside the District at the specific request of the organisers of the event;
- Are entitled to use the title ‘Honorary Alderman/Alderwoman of the District of Ashfield’;
- Have no special right to attend meetings of the Council or its Committees or to receive any allowances payable under the Members’ Allowances Scheme.

It is proposed that any Political Group may nominate a past Member of the Council for the role of Honorary Alderman/Alderwoman.

The proposed policy and nomination form is attached to the report for consideration by Council for adoption.

Implications

Corporate Plan:

We value the democratic role that Councillors have in representing the people of Ashfield. The Aldermen/Alderwomen Policy recognises the contributions of past Councillors to the Council and the District.

Legal:

The legal provisions are set out in the body of the report.

Finance:

Budget Area	Implication
General Fund – Revenue Budget	Costs incurred are expected to be minimal and exceptional in nature. As such any costs incurred should be contained within the annual Civic Budget for that year.
General Fund – Capital Programme	None
Housing Revenue Account – Revenue Budget	None
Housing Revenue Account – Capital Programme	None

Risk:

Risk	Mitigation
There are no significant risks associated with the adoption of the policy.	

Human Resources:

There are no significant HR issues as the policy relates to former members of the Council and not employees.

Equalities:

The policy does not have a negative or positive impact in relation to any group of people with protected characteristics. The proposed criteria as set out in the policy will be applied to each past member nominated and considered by Council for approval on an individual basis.

Other Implications:

None

Reason(s) for Urgency

None

Reason(s) for Exemption

None

Background Papers

None

Report Author and Contact Officer

Ruth Dennis
DIRECTOR OF LEGAL AND GOVERNANCE (MONITORING OFFICER)
r.dennis@ashfield.gov.uk
01623 457009