

REPORT TO: FULL COUNCIL

DATE: 22 SEPTEMBER 2011

TITLE: HONORARY ALDERMEN

**AUTHOR: CLLR MIKE GARNETT (CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL)
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RECOMMENDED that:

- (a) The Council resolves to exercise its powers to create the office of Honorary Alderman of Harlow.**
- (b) The award of this honour shall be in accordance with the process set out below.**

BACKGROUND

1. The Office of Alderman is an historic one dating back many hundreds of years. The creation of Honorary Aldermen is covered by the Local Government Act 1972. It is an acknowledgement of the wisdom that accumulates with age and, as well as the modern focus on the attributes of youth in our society, values maturity and experience in equal measure to the energy and ambition of youth.
2. The Council can look back on many Councillors who made outstanding contributions to Harlow during their time in office; many of whom go on to contribute many years of service to the community outside of the Council. The Council is the poorer that their presence representing the Council in other areas of influence is also lost. I believe that it would be appropriate for the Council to recognise this contribution by the creation of Honorary Aldermen.
3. Appointments to the Office of Alderman are constrained by the provisions of the 1972 Act, one of which is that appointments must only be made at a meeting of Council specifically called for that purpose.

PROCESS FOR THE CREATION OF AN HONORARY ALDERMAN

The office of Alderman shall be awarded for life by the vote of at least two thirds of the Councillors voting at a meeting of Full Council called specifically for the purpose.

There shall be no maximum or minimum number of Aldermen.

Nominations for the Office of Aldermen may only be made by the Leader of the Council and the Leader of the main Opposition.

Aldermen will not have unrestricted entry to Council Offices nor rights to consult with Council Officers.

The office carries with it no remuneration or allowances.

The office may be awarded to any ex-member of Harlow Council, irrespective of party or political affiliation, who:

- has served any continuous period of ten years in office
- continues to fulfil all the requirements for election to the office of Councillor (including residence conditions)
- is considered by Council to have made an outstanding contribution to the Council during office.

Aldermen will be entitled to use this salutation in public and private matters and a badge of office will be awarded to each for use on official occasions.

IMPLICATIONS

Regeneration & Enterprise

None

Author: **Cath Shaw, Assistant Chief Executive: Regeneration and Enterprise**

Regulation (includes Sustainability)

None

Author: **Graeme Bloomer, Head of Regulation**

Finance

None

Author: **Simon Freeman, Head of Finance**

Housing

None

Author: **Andrew Murray, Head of Housing**

Community & Customer Services (includes Equalities and Social Inclusion)

None

Author: **Lynn Seward, Head of Community and Customer Services**

Governance (includes HR and ICT)

There are no specific implications in this report beyond those set out above.

Author: **Mike White, Head of Governance**

