

WEST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNCIL

16 May 2024

Report Title **Nomination of Honorary Alderman**

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List of Appendices

Appendix A – Alderman Scheme

Appendix B – Biographies of nominees

1. Purpose of Report

1.1 The purpose of this report is to invite Council to consider nominations for the Honorary Alderman role in accordance with the provisions in the Scheme attached at Appendix A.

2. Executive Summary

2.1 In 2023 the Council approved a scheme for the appointment of honorary Alderman. The Chief Executive has received a number of nominations in accordance with the Scheme and has consulted the members of the Civic Group in relation to those nominations. The Chief Executive is now recommending the acceptance of those nominations for the reasons set out in this report.

3. Recommendations

3.1 It is recommended that Council approves the nominations to the role of Honorary Alderman as follows:

- Sandra Barnes MBE
- Caryl Billingham MBE
- Liz Griffin

- David Harries BEM
- Chris Millar
- Suresh Patel
- Mary-Anne Sergison-Brooke
- Judy Shephard

4. Reason for Recommendations

To recognise and celebrate those who have given eminent service to the area.
To comply with the statutory framework and the local Scheme attached.

5. Report Background

5.1 In 2023 the Council established a scheme for the creation of Honorary Aldermen, delegating responsibility for creation and implementation of the Scheme to the Chief Executive in consultation with the members of the Civic Group.

5.2 Under Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972, the position of Honorary Alderman is open to:

“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 then members of the Council”.

5.3 The nominees have been identified as qualifying under the following definition of eminent services:

Serving as an elected member for a total of 12 years for West Northamptonshire Council and/or one of the following councils:

a. the former Northampton Borough Council,

b. the former Daventry District Council,

c. the former South Northamptonshire Council, or

d. the part of the former Northamptonshire County Council which covered the West Northamptonshire area

AND *meeting at least one of the following conditions:*

· Holding senior political office with distinction;

· Having an exceptional record of community service and leadership.

5.4 Predecessor Councils conferred the title Honorary Alderman on a number of former Councillors and under transitional provisions those persons are Honorary Alderman of the new Council. The nominees are the first for West Northamptonshire Council itself.

- 5.5 The position of Honorary Alderman and Councillor are mutually exclusive. In the event of an Alderman being elected as a Councillor, membership as an Honorary Alderman would cease.
- 5.6 Honorary Aldermen are subject to the same codes of conduct and standards requirements as a Councillor and would face the sanction of loss of title and role should they be found in breach of the codes and standards set out in the Council's Constitution. Removal of the title of Honorary Alderman will follow the same process as appointment.
- 5.7 The nominations for the appointment of Honorary Alderman are as follows:
- Sandra Barnes MBE
 - Caryl Billingham MBE
 - Liz Griffin
 - David Harries BEM
 - Chris Millar
 - Suresh Patel
 - Mary-Anne Sergison Brooke
 - Judy Shephard
- 5.8 Short biographies of each of those nominated are attached in Appendix B to this report.

6. Issues and Choices

- 6.1 The issues and choices insofar as they relate to the appointment of Honorary Alderman is as set out in the attached Scheme. An Alderman can be appointed if the Council is satisfied that the individual meets the criteria set out. Council can also reject a nomination for failure to meet the criteria.
- 6.2 **Resources and Financial**
- 6.2.1 There are no financial implications arising directly. Badges have been purchased at minimal cost to award to Honorary Alderman using existing budgets.
- 6.3 **Legal**
- 6.3.1 Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972 states that: "a principal council may, by 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 with notice of the object, confer the title of honorary aldermen 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 then members of that council".
- 6.3.2 Section 32 of the Local Government (Structural Changes) (Transitional Arrangements) (No2) Regulations 2008 confirms that a person who has been admitted as an Honorary Alderman of a local government area that has been abolished shall be treated as being admitted as an Honorary Alderman of the new reorganised area.

6.4 **Risk**

6.4.1 There are no significant risks arising from this report.

6.5 **Consultation**

6.5.1 Consultation has been undertaken with the Civic Working Group in relation to the selection of candidates for nomination.

6.6 **Consideration by Overview and Scrutiny**

6.6.1 The Scheme provides for the involvement of the Civic Group as consultees. This is a non-executive matter with the decision requiring support from two thirds of elected members.

6.7 **Climate Impact**

6.7.1 There is no climate impact to consider in relation to the recommendation.

6.8 **Community Impact**

6.8.1 The Scheme is designed to recognise service to the community in accordance with the criteria set out.

7. **Background Papers**

7.1 None