
6F PROTOCOL ON CONFERMENT OF HONORARY TITLES

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Council may, under section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972, confer the title of Honorary Alderman or Honorary Alderwoman on Councillors who have, in the opinion of the Council, rendered eminent service to it, as former Members of the West Oxfordshire District Council.

2.0 PROCEDURE

The Chair of the Council, the Leader of the Council, or any Leader of a Political Group of the Council, may bring a motion to Council seeking a resolution that the Council agree to convene an Extraordinary Council meeting to consider conferring the honorary title upon any former Member.

Such motions should be brought to the Annual Council meeting. Consultation should be undertaken in advance with all Political Group Leaders, who shall consult with their Group, and any non-grouped Members.

Nominations should be restricted to former Members of the Council who have retired as Councillors and chosen not to stand for re-election to West Oxfordshire District Council. Nominations should be in respect of former Members who it is understood are unlikely to stand for election again in the future and intend to retire from political life.

Such a decision to confer such a title, may only be made at a specially convened Council meeting for that purpose. Such a resolution may only be made at the specially convened Council meeting, to confer the title, if passed by not less than two thirds of the members voting and present at that meeting.

3.0 CRITERIA

Consideration, by the Council, of conferring the title of Honorary Alderman or Honorary Alderwoman upon a former Member, will be in accordance with this Protocol.

Two thirds of Members present and voting at the specially convened Council meeting for conferring the title, must be satisfied that the former Member has provided eminent service to West Oxfordshire District Council.

In reaching this conclusion, Members may take into account various issues including, but not limited to, length of service to the Council, roles appointed or elected to within the Council, and any other notable contribution made.

Any conferment of such honorary title can only be made if the Council indicates, by a vote of not less than two thirds of members present and voting, that it considers the former Councillor has provided eminent service to the West Oxfordshire District Council.

Any former Member who has the title of Honorary Alderman conferred upon them by the Council, is entitled to attend Council meetings, other than when the Council has resolved to go into private session. They do not have a right to speak, participate in a debate or vote on any item at Council meetings.