



WEST OXFORDSHIRE  
DISTRICT COUNCIL

**WEST OXFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL**

Name and date of Committee	<b>COUNCIL – 20 JULY 2022</b>
Report Number	<b>AGENDA ITEM No 9</b>
Subject	<b>HONORARY TITLES</b>
Wards affected	None specifically
Accountable member	N/A
Accountable officer	Giles Hughes, Chief Executive Tel: 01993 861658 Email: <a href="mailto:giles.hughes@westoxon.gov.uk">giles.hughes@westoxon.gov.uk</a>
Summary/ Purpose	To consider a scheme for conferring honorary titles on former councillors who have, in the opinion of Council, rendered eminent service to the Council.
Recommendation/s	That Council resolves to: a) Adopt a points system as a guideline for determining eligibility for honorary titles, as set out in the report. b) Agree that, if the motion at agenda item 10 is passed, a Special Meeting of the Council be held to bestow the title of Honorary Alderman on the former Councillors identified, on a date to be determined by the Chief Executive in consultation with the Chair of the Council.
Corporate priorities	None specific
Key Decision	Not applicable – the matter is reserved to the Council
Exempt	No
Consultees/ Consultation	None

## **1. BACKGROUND**

- 1.1.** 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. The resolution to confer the title of Honorary Alderman or Honorary Alderwoman has to be passed by not less than two-thirds of the Members voting at a specially-convened Council Meeting.
- 1.2.** The Council has, to date, bestowed the honour on one former Councillor – Sir Barry Norton.
- 1.3.** It is proposed that the Council applies a points system as a guideline for determining eligibility and the suggested scheme is as follows:
  - each year as an Elected Member of the West Oxfordshire District Council or its predecessors – 1 point
  - each year as Chair of the Council – 3 points;
  - each year as Leader of the Council – 3 points;
  - each year as Deputy Leader of the Council – 2 points;
  - each year as a Cabinet Member – 2 points;
  - each year as Chair of a main committee – 2 points
- 1.4.** Using the above proposed points system, it is suggested the number of points to be achieved to confer the title of Honorary Alderman or Honorary Alderwoman will be 30 points. This suggested figure is a guideline. In adopting the points system Council would retain the discretion to award honorary titles to a former Councillors who score below this threshold provided they have, in the view of Council, rendered eminent service to the Council. Equally, Council would retain the discretion to not award honorary titles to former councillors who score 30 or higher. The following former Members, who retired or were not re-elected in May 2022, have scored 30 or higher under this system:-
  - David Harvey
  - Derek Cotterill

## **2. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 2.1.** There are no significant financial implications arising from this report.
- 2.2.** A special Meeting of the Council has to be convened to bestow an honorary title. Each Honorary Alderman or Honorary Alderwoman is presented with a certificate, a plate and medallion. The associated costs can be met from within existing budgets.

## **3. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 3.1.** Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972 allows the Council to 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. The

resolution to confer the honorary title has to be passed by not less than two-thirds of the members voting at a specially-convened Council Meeting.

## **RISK ASSESSMENT**

**3.2.** Not applicable.

## **4. EQUALITIES IMPACT**

**4.1.** Not required.

## **5. CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATONS (IF REQUIRED)**

**5.1.** Not applicable.

## **6. EQUALITIES IMPACT**

**6.1.** Not applicable.

## **7. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS**

**7.1.** No direct recommendation is made on the way forward – this is a matter for Member debate and decision.

## **8. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

**8.1.** None.

(END)