

Wolverhampton City Council

Committee / Panel	<u>STANDARDS COMMITTEE</u>	Date	30 July 2009
Originating Service Group(s)	<u>OFFICE OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE</u>		
Contact Officer(s)	<u>LINDA BANBURY</u>		
Telephone Number(s)	<u>5040</u>		
Title/Subject Matter	<u>HONORARY ALDERMAN – CONFERMENT OF TITLE</u>		

1.0 Recommendation

- 1.1 That an extraordinary meeting of the Council be convened on 4 November 2009 to confer the title of Honorary Alderman on former Councillor Trudy Bowen.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 In July 1998 the Council agreed to establish a policy for the appointment of Honorary Aldermen, for which there is provision in the Local Government Act 1972 (Section 249). Subsequently, in September 1998, the then Policy and Resources Committee endorsed a procedure for reporting to Council on this matter and determined the eligibility criteria. Former Councillors Mrs Hodson and Howells were conferred with the title in January 1999, former Councillor Mrs Seiboth received the honour in October 2000, former Councillors N.G. Davies and Carpenter in September 2002, former Councillor Alan Hart in December 2007, and former Councillor Robert Hart in December 2008.
- 2.2 Trudy Bowen ceased to be a Member of the Council in May 2008 after 27 years' distinguished service. During this time she served on many Council bodies but was a particular stalwart of the Education and Highways and Transportation Committees; she was Chair of the former between 1987 and 1991 and the latter between 1995 and 1997. Notably, Mrs Bowen was Mayor of Wolverhampton in 2007/08, having served as Deputy Mayor in 2006/7. Mrs Bowen's service meets the criterion for eligibility for conferment agreed by the Council, i.e. a minimum of twenty four years service on Wolverhampton Council by a retiring Member of the Council, including service to former Councils within its area, with broken service being aggregated for the purpose. Following consultation with the political groups on the Council, it is proposed that the title of Honorary Alderman is bestowed on Mrs Bowen, who has indicated that she would be pleased to accept the honour.
- 2.3 Under the Council's Constitution, the function of advising the Council on the conferment of the title of Honorary Alderman rests with the Standards Committee, and the Committee is therefore asked to consider this proposal.

3.0 Role of Honorary Aldermen

- 3.1 Honorary Aldermen are invited to attend full Council meetings in a non-participating capacity and are also invited to various functions such as Civic and Remembrance Sundays and other appropriate civic events. Honorary Aldermen are also afforded

access to the Members' rooms and Members' car park. The names of Honorary Aldermen are inscribed on a roll of honour board on the ground floor of the Civic Centre.

4.0 Procedure for Conferment

- 4.1 The Local Government Act 1972 Act provides that an extraordinary Council meeting be convened for the purpose of conferring the title and the necessary resolution must be passed by not less than two thirds of the Members voting. It is proposed that the extraordinary meeting be convened immediately prior to the ordinary Council meeting on 30 July next, and that the presentation be made to Mrs Bowen upon the resolution being passed.

5.0 Financial Implications

- 5.1 As was the case with previous Honorary Aldermen, it would be the intention to present Mrs Bowen with a badge of office, the total cost of which is approximately £600. This, together with the small cost of inscribing his name on the roll of honour board, can be met from existing budgets.

6.0 Equal Opportunities Implications

- 6.1 It should be noted that the Local Government Act 1972 provides no scope for departing from the term "Alderman".