

Wolverhampton City Council

Committee / Panel **STANDARDS COMMITTEE** Date **13 SEPTEMBER 2012**

Originating Service Group(s) **DELIVERY (GOVERNANCE SERVICES)**

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Title/Subject Matter **HONORARY ALDERMAN – CONFERMENT OF TITLE**

1.0 RECOMMENDATION

- 1.1 That an extraordinary meeting of the Council be convened on 26 September 2012 to confer the title of Honorary Alderman on former Councillor John Lamonby Goodfellow Davis.

2.0 PURPOSE

- 2.1 To recommend that an extraordinary meeting of the Council be convened on 26 September 2012 to confer the title of Honorary Alderman on former Councillor John Lamonby Goodfellow Davis.

3.0 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 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, Councillor Mrs D Seiboth received the honour in October 2000, Councillors N.G. Davies and Carpenter in September 2002, Councillor A Hart in December 2007, Councillor R Hart in December 2008, Councillor T Bowen in November 2009 and Councillors Surjan Singh Duhra and Francis Docherty in 2011.
- 3.2 Councillor Davis ceased to be a Member of the Council in May 2012 after 34 years' distinguished service. During this time he served on many Council bodies too numerous to mention, but was a particular stalwart of the former Education Committee and Environmental Health and Consumer Services Committee/Licensing and Environmental Protection Panel (now Licensing Committee); he was Chair of the Licensing and Environmental Protection Panel and then Licensing Committee between 2007 and 2011 and Shadow-Chair in the 2011/12 municipal year. Notably, Mr Davis was Mayor of Wolverhampton in 2006/07.
- 3.3 Mr Davis' service meets the criterion for eligibility for conferment agreed by the Council, i.e. a minimum of twenty 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. The service criterion was reduced from 24 years to 20 years by resolution of full Council on 14 July 2010. Following consultation with the political groups on the Council, it is proposed that the title of Honorary Alderman is bestowed on Mr Davis.
- 3.4 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.

4.0 ROLE OF HONORARY ALDERMAN

- 4.1 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 Councillors' rooms and Councillors' car park. The names of Honorary Aldermen are inscribed on a roll of honour board on the ground floor of the Civic Centre.

5.0 PROCEDURE FOR CONFERMENT

- 5.1 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

26 September 2012. The presentation of a badge of office will be made at a later date if necessary.

6.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 As was the case with previous Honorary Aldermen, it would be the intention to present Mr Davis with a badge of office, the total cost of which is approximately £900. This, together with the small cost of inscribing his name on the roll of honour board, can be met from within the £5k Councillors' equipment budget. [GE/06082012/R]

7.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

7.1 There is provision in the Local Government Act 1972 (Section 249) for a Local Authority to confer the title of Honorary Alderman 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 Councillors of the Council". Service to former Councils within the existing Council area may count for this purpose. [FD/31072012/W]

8.0 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

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

9.0 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

9.1 There are no direct environmental implications arising from this report.