

CITY OF
WOLVERHAMPTON
COUNCIL

Governance and Ethics Committee

25 February 2022

Report title	Conferring the Title of Honorary Alderman	
Cabinet member with lead responsibility	Councillor Ian Brookfield Leader of the Council	
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Originating service	Governance	
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Report to be considered by	Council	6 April 2022

Recommendation for decision:

The Governance and Ethics Committee recommends that Council:

1. Convene an extraordinary meeting on the 6 April 2022 to confer the title of Honorary Alderman on former Councillor John Rowley.

1.0 Purpose

- 1.1 To consider whether to confer the title of Honorary Alderman on former Councillor John Rowley who ceased to be a Member of the Council in November 2020.

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. The service criterion was reduced from 24 years to 20 years by resolution of full Council on 14 July 2010.
- 2.2 Mr Rowley has a total of 38 years' distinguished service. During this time, he has not only served the residents of Blakenhall Ward, but also held many important positions within the Council impacting on the lives of the citizens of our whole City. They are too numerous to mention, but in particular he was the Mayor of the City of Wolverhampton in 2003 - 2004. He was a Cabinet Member in 2011 for Communities, he Chaired Environmental Health & Consumer Services, Regenerating Wolverhampton Monitoring and Policy Development Panel, Performance, Governance & Support Services Scrutiny Panel, Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Panel, Enterprise & Business Scrutiny Panel, Sustainability Advisory Group, Planning & Environment Committee, Social Services Scrutiny Panel and was Vice Chair on Licensing Committee. He had also taken an active part on the other regulatory committees, scrutiny panels and reviews and advisory bodies he served on.
- 2.3 Mr Rowley's service meets the criterion for eligibility for conferment agreed by the Council. Following consultation with the political groups on the Council it is proposed that the title of Honorary Alderman is bestowed on him.
- 2.4 Under the provisions of the Council's Constitution, the function of advising full Council on the conferment of the title of Honorary Alderman rests with the Governance and Ethics Committee, and therefore, the Committee is asked to consider this proposal.
- 2.5 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 Sunday and other appropriate civic events. The names of Honorary Aldermen are inscribed on a roll of honour board on the ground floor of the Civic Centre.
- 2.6 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 prior to the ordinary Council meeting on 6 April 2022.

3.0 Financial implications

3.1 As was the case with previous Honorary Aldermen it is the intention to present the former Councillor with a badge of office. These will be drawn from an existing stock of badges purchased prior to this financial year. A small cost will be incurred in inscribing the name of the Honorary Alderman on the badge, and also on the roll of honour board, but this can easily be accommodated within existing Democratic Services budgets. [GE/31012022/M]

4.0 Legal implications

4.1 Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972 enables 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 the Council but who are not then members of the Council”. [SZ/02022022/P]

5.0 Equalities implications

5.1 There are no direct equalities implications arising from the recommendation of this report.

6.0 Any Other Implications

6.1 There are no other implications arising from the recommendation of this report.

7.0 Background papers

7.1 None