

TITLE	Appointment of Honorary Alderman
FOR CONSIDERATION BY	Extraordinary Council on 9 June 2016
WARD	None specific
LEAD OFFICER	Andy Couldrick, Chief Executive

OUTCOME / BENEFITS TO THE COMMUNITY

The position of Honorary Alderman is intended to acknowledge the eminent services of past Members of the Council.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council in sincere appreciation of the distinguished public service rendered by him to the Borough of Wokingham does hereby admit Mr Robert John William Wyatt to be an Honorary Alderman of the Borough of Wokingham in recognition of his untiring service over a period of 22 years to the people of the Borough, and particularly to those of the Wescott Ward, on Committees of the Council, to local organisations and in the offices of Chairman and Mayor.

SUMMARY OF REPORT

In accordance with the Protocol for the Appointment of Honorary Aldermen of Wokingham Borough Council, which was agreed by Council on 19 May 2016, a nomination has been received for a past Member of Council to be conferred the title of Honorary Alderman in recognition of his eminent services during his time on the District/Borough Council. Council is therefore asked to consider this nomination.

1. Background

1.1 Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972 provides that the title of Honorary Alderman can be conferred on “persons who have, in the opinion of the Council rendered eminent services to the Council, but who are not then Councillors of the Council”.

1.2 In order to confer the title of Honorary Alderman on a past Member of Council a meeting of the whole Council needs to be convened specifically for this purpose and the resolution passed by not less than two thirds of the voting Members present at that meeting.

2. Role of Honorary Alderman

2.1 An Honorary Alderman may attend and take part in civic events organised by Wokingham Borough Council and is entitled to wear the badge of ‘Honorary Alderman’ at such events. An Honorary Alderman will receive invitations to all civic and social events to which Members of the Council are also invited.

2.2 The badge of Honorary Alderman must only be worn at civic events outside the Borough at the specific request of the organisers of the event.

2.3 Those elected to the roll of Honorary Alderman are entitled to use the title ‘Honorary Alderman of the Borough of Wokingham’.

2.4 An Honorary Alderman does not carry any right to attend meetings of the Council or its committees or to claim any allowances payable under the Members’ Allowances Scheme.

3. Criteria for Appointment

3.1 The appointment of Honorary Alderman is to confer recognition on previous Councillors who, over a period of time, have made a significant contribution to the Council in particular and public service.

3.2 Any person nominated must meet the following criteria:

- a) No longer holds the position of Councillor;
- b) Must have served for a minimum of 20 years on the District/Borough Council;
- c) Must have rendered eminent services during their time on the District/Borough Council;
- d) Must have made a significant contribution to the Council and the people it represents.

3.3 Past Member of Council Robert (Bob) Wyatt has been duly nominated having met the criteria in 3.2 above. Mr Wyatt was a District/Borough Councillor for 22 years and represented Wescott Ward during this time, as well as being Chairman of Wokingham District Council and Mayor of the Borough Council. In addition Mr Wyatt has been a member of Wokingham Town Council for well over 30 years.

In his time on the Council Mr Wyatt has been a champion for older people in the Borough and many charities, schools and the NHS and has played a significant role for the Wokingham BME Forum as well as pioneering the Link Visiting Scheme.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF THE RECOMMENDATION

The Council faces severe financial challenges over the coming years as a result of the austerity measures implemented by the Government and subsequent reductions to public sector funding. It is estimated that Wokingham Borough Council will be required to make budget reductions in excess of £20m over the next three years and all Executive decisions should be made in this context.

	How much will it Cost/ (Save)	Is there sufficient funding – if not quantify the Shortfall	Revenue or Capital?
Current Financial Year (Year 1)	£800	Yes	Revenue
Next Financial Year (Year 2)	N/A		
Following Financial Year (Year 3)	N/A		

Other financial information relevant to the Recommendation/Decision

£800 is required to purchase a Badge of Office, Illuminated Scroll and Book of Honorary Aldermen. Costs will be met from the Mayor's and Democratic Services' budgets.

Cross-Council Implications

None

List of Background Papers

Local Government Act 1972

Contact Anne Hunter	Service Governance and Improvement Services
Telephone No 01189746051	Email anne.hunter@wokingham.gov.uk
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