CHIEF EXECUTIVE’S REPORT - SCHEME FOR THE ENROLMENT OF
HONORARY ALDERMEN

Officer Contact: Susan Rogers
Ext: 3208 Email: susan_rogers@wycombe.gov.uk
Wards Affected: None directly

PROPOSED DECISION
(i) That the Council indicates whether or not it wishes to offer election
to the Roll of Honorary Aldermen to the proposed recipients; and
(ii) In the event that such offer(s) are made a special meeting of the
Council take place immediately before the next Annual Council
meeting for the purpose of such enrolment.

Corporate Implications
1 Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972 permits the Council to draw
up a scheme for the enrolment of Honorary Aldermen. The procedure
proposed is in accordance with the Council’s scheme as revised on 2 July
2007.
2 The Council’s scheme provides for a certificate and badge to be given to
each new Honorary Alderman. The cost of this can be met from within the
existing Members’ Services budget.
3 It is not considered that these proposals present any risk to the Council.

Detailed Report
4 The Council’s Scheme for the Enrolment of Honorary Aldermen provides
that no person may be deemed eligible to become an Honorary Alderman unless he or she:
   • is no longer serving as a Member of Wycombe District Council
   • has served as a Member of the District Council, and/or its
     former constituent authorities for at least 15 years in total
   • has given exceptional service during that period
   • is not a serving member on another authority
5 Even if fulfilling the above criteria, enrolment is not automatic, but requires
a specific resolution of Council, passed at a meeting convened specially for
the purpose with not less than two-thirds of the Members present and
voting thereon.
6 The Council’s Scheme was drawn up in 1986 and amended in July 2007.
The first Honorary Alderman (Miss Joan Couper) was enrolled in January
1987. It was the Council’s intention at that time that this would be an
honour awarded only rarely and only to those who had given exceptional
service to Wycombe or one of its predecessor authorities.
7 There have been only 11 Honorary Aldermen created since that time and
there are four currently holding office. These are Mr E H Collins, Mr A J
Hurst, Mr M B Oram and Mrs K M Peatey, JP.
8 It has been proposed by Councilor W J Bendyshe-Brown and seconded by Councilor S P Lacey, that Mrs Pamela Priestley be enrolled as an Honorary Alderman for the following reasons:
(i) She has served continually as a councillor for the area since May 1983
(ii) She was Leader of the Council from 1999 to 2001
(iii) She was Chairman of the Council in 1991 - 1992
(iv) She was Chairman of the Planning Committee from 2003 to 2011

9 It has been proposed by Councilor A D Collingwood and seconded by Councilor Mrs L M Clarke, that Mr Bill Jennings be enrolled as an Honorary Alderman for the following reasons:
(i) He was a member for a total of 30 years
(ii) He was Chairman of the Council 2001-2002
(iii) He was a Cabinet Member from 2003 to 2006
(iv) Other positions have included Chairman of Policy and Resources Committee

10 It has been proposed by Councilor D Barnes and seconded by Councilor J Richards OBE, that Mr Malcolm Blanksby be enrolled as an Honorary Alderman for the following reasons:
(i) He has served continually as a councillor for the area since May 1995
(ii) He was Leader of the Council’s Independent Group 1999-2003 and 2007-2008
(iii) He was Chairman of the Best Value Select Committee 1999-2001

11 It has been proposed by Councilor Mrs L M Clarke and seconded by Councilor R Gaffney, that Mr David Cox be enrolled as an Honorary Alderman for the following reasons:
(i) He has served continually as a councillor for the area since October 1990
(ii) He was Chairman of the Council 2000-2001
(iii) He was Deputy Leader of the Council 2003-2006

12 All proposals comply with the Council’s criteria as set out in the Council’s Scheme for the Enrolment of Honorary Alderman (Part I of the Constitution).

Consultation

13 In accordance with the Council’s scheme, all proposed recipients have indicated informally, that they would wish to accept the offer of enrolment as an Honorary Alderman if this was made.

Next steps

14 Once the Council has indicated its wishes the necessary procedures will be put in place.

Background Papers
Scheme for the Enrolment of Honorary Aldermen