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**Extraordinary Meeting of the City Council**

18 May, 2023

**Name of Cabinet Member:** N/A

**Director Approving Submission of the report:** Chief Legal Officer

**Ward(s) affected:** All

**Title:** Conferring the Title of Honorary Alderman

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**Is this a key decision?**

No

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**Executive Summary:**

The Local Government Act 1972 allows local authorities to confer the title of Honorary Alderman on any former Councillor in recognition of their eminent service to the Council. The Council approved a revised Protocol for conferring the title of Honorary Alderman and Alderwoman on former Councillors at its meeting on 18 September 2012. This report sets out the details of a nomination to confer the title of Honorary Alderman on Joe Clifford.

**Recommendations:**

It is recommended that Council confers the title of Honorary Alderman on Joe Clifford

**List of Appendices included:**

1. Revised Protocol for conferring of Honorary Aldermen and Alderwomen (as presented to Council for approval on 18 September 2012)

**Other useful background papers:**

None

**Has it been or will it be considered by Scrutiny?**

No

**Has it been or will it be considered by any other Council Committee, Advisory Panel or other body?** No

## **Report Title: Conferring the Title of Honorary Aldermen**

### **1. Context**

- 1.1 The Council approved a revised Protocol for conferring the title of Honorary Alderman or Alderwoman on former Councillors at its meeting on 18 September 2012, attached as Appendix 1. The title of Honorary Alderman or Alderwoman can be conferred at Extraordinary Council meetings throughout the year. Members will vote on each nomination. Nominations need to be agreed by at least two thirds of the Members present.

### **2. Options Considered and Recommended Proposal**

- 2.1 A nomination has been received which meets the criteria as set out in the Protocol within Part 5 of the Council's Constitution (a copy of this is attached in Appendix 1). A summary of the nomination is set out below. During the Council meeting, there will be a Proposer and a Secunder for the nomination. The Proposer, Secunder and supporter from the Conservative Group will make short speeches and the Council will then vote on the nomination. A nomination needs to be agreed by at least two thirds of members present and voting. If the nomination is agreed, this will be followed by a short acceptance speech by the new Honorary Alderman.

#### **2.2 Nominated Honorary Alderman: Joe Clifford**

Joe Clifford has provided eminent service to the people of Coventry for almost 50 years, first being elected to the City Council in the early 1970's and being a Councillor for Whoberley, Woodlands and Holbrook Wards. During this time, he has served on many Committees, Boards and Panels and was a Cabinet Member for both Children and Young People and Health and Community Services. More recently he was Chair of the Health and Social Care Scrutiny Board.

Joe and his wife Pat served as Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress in 1995-96.

Joe has been proposed by Councillor R Lancaster, seconded by Councillor G Duggins and the nomination is supported by Councillor G Ridley.

### **3. Results of consultation undertaken**

- 3.1 In preparing this report, consultation has taken place with the proposer and proposed Honorary Alderman, the Leader of the Council and the Leader of the Conservative Group.

### **4. Timetable for implementing this decision**

The conferring of the title of Honorary Alderman will take effect immediately upon approval by Council.

#### **5.1 Comments from Interim Chief Executive (Section 151 Officer) and Chief Legal Officer**

##### **Financial implications**

There are only nominal financial implications arising from this report. The Lord Mayor's Office already hold Honorary Alderman Badges in stock.

#### **5.2 Legal implications**

This report implements the Council's Protocol for appointing Honorary Aldermen or Alderwomen. The Protocol is in accordance with the provisions for such appointments, as set out in Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972.

**6. Other implications**

**6.1 How will this contribute to How will this contribute to the Council Plan ([www.coventry.gov.uk/councilplan/](http://www.coventry.gov.uk/councilplan/))?**

Not applicable

**6.2 How is risk being managed?**

Not applicable.

**6.3 What is the impact on the organisation?**

To confer the esteemed title of Honorary Alderman on any former Councillor is a prestigious honour that will have a positive impact on the City Council and the City of Coventry. The details of the nominations will refer to the nature of the eminent services provided by that former Member and to recognise the contributions they have made.

**6.3 Equalities / EIA**

Each nomination for the position of Honorary Alderman is considered on its individual merits. Nominations are received in accordance with the protocol, which is applicable to any former Member.

**6.4 Implications for (or impact on) climate change and the environment**

None

**6.5 Implications for partner organisations**

None

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## **Appendix 1**

### **Revised Protocol for conferring the title of Honorary Alderman or Alderwoman**

#### **1. Procedure**

- a) The title of Honorary Alderman/Alderwoman will only be conferred and entered into the Roll of Aldermen/Alderwomen in accordance with the Council's agreed Protocol.
- b) Any name put forward must be proposed in writing by a serving Member of the Council and seconded in writing by at least one other serving Member of the Council. Nominations must be submitted to both the Chief Executive and the Lord Mayor.
- c) Nominations will be considered and the title of Honorary Alderman or Alderwoman will be conferred at a specially convened meeting of the Council. The title will be conferred by a resolution passed by not less than two thirds of members present and voting.
- d) Nominations may, in addition to this, be considered at a prior ordinary Council meeting, and the nomination approved in principle by a resolution comprising a majority vote. If nominations are considered at an ordinary meeting, it is proposed that the specially convened meeting may be held immediately after this ordinary meeting or at a future meeting, subject to the appropriate notice of the special meeting having been given

#### **2. Qualifications Required for Enrolment**

- a) The Council may, in accordance with Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972, and the provisions of this Protocol, confer the title of "Honorary Alderman" or "Honorary Alderwoman".
- b) An Honorary Alderman/Alderwoman shall enjoy only those rights or privileges conferred by Section 249 of the Act and this Protocol.
- c) The Director of Law and Governance shall keep a roll to be called "The Roll of Honorary Aldermen/Alderwomen" of those who have had this title conferred on them.
- d) A person shall be deemed eligible to be enrolled as an Honorary Alderman/Alderwoman provided that the person meets the following requirements:
  - is not a serving Member of the Council
  - has served as a Member of the Council for at least 15 years in total (continuously or non-continuously)
  - has given eminent service to the Council during that period.

#### **3. Method of Enrolment**

- a) No person who has the above qualifications shall be enrolled automatically as an Honorary Alderman/Alderwoman but only in accordance with the procedure set out above.
- b) Formal conferring of the title of Honorary Aldermen/Alderwomen shall be by a resolution of the Council passed by not less than two thirds of the Members present and voting thereon at a meeting of the Council specially convened for the purpose with notice of the object.

#### **4. Withdrawal of Title**

- a) The Council may withdraw the title of Honorary Alderman/Alderwoman and the attached rights and privileges. Such withdrawal of the title shall be by way of formal motion to a meeting of the full Council, (the summons to which contains special notice that such withdrawal is proposed and the reason therefore) and subsequent resolution of the Council passed by not less than two thirds of the Members present and voting thereon at the meeting of the Council.

#### **5. Privileges**

An Honorary Alderman/Alderwoman shall be entitled to the following rights and privileges:

- To enjoy the courtesy title of Honorary Alderman or Alderwoman and to be so addressed.
- To provide a badge or emblem to Honorary Aldermen/Alderwomen, and to wear such badge or emblem on civic occasions.
- To receive a copy of each Council summons.
- To receive a framed certificate to commemorate their appointment.
- To enter their name into "The Roll of Honorary Aldermen/Alderwomen".
- To receive invitations to civic and social events to which Members of the Council are invited as determined by the Lord Mayor.
- To walk in civic procession in a position immediately behind serving Members.
- To enjoy such other privileges as the Council may confer upon them from time to time.