

Civic Award - Honorary Alderman

For Cabinet on Thursday 20 April 2023

Summary

Lead Member:

Lead Director: Lee Colyer – Director of Finance, Policy and Development

Head of Service: Renee Dillon - Democratic & Executive Support Service Manager

Report Author: Caroline Britt – Senior Democratic Services Officer

Classification: Partially Exempt from Disclosure – Exempt Appendix A exempt by virtue of paragraph 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended): Information relating to any individual.

Wards Affected: All

Approval Timetable	Date
Informal nominations working group	28 February 2023
Communities and Economic Development Cabinet Advisory Board	13 April 2023
Cabinet	20 April 2023
Full Council	24 May 2023

Recommendations

Officer recommendations as supported by the informal management nominations working group:

- That Cabinet recommend to Full Council that the individual set out at Exempt Appendix A to the report be awarded the title of Honorary Alderman.

1. Introduction and Background

- 1.1 This report advises members of the Council of a nomination for the award of Honorary Alderman and invites its consideration.
- 1.2 Tunbridge Wells Borough Council can award the title of Honorary Alderman in recognition to people who have given 'meritorious service' to the Borough. Details of the scheme are set out at Exempt Appendix B.
- 1.3 A nomination as set out at Exempt Appendix A to the report has been submitted. The name of the nominee and the reasons for the nomination are confidential unless the award is made.
- 1.4 Members may discuss in general terms whether the nominee meets the criteria during a public session but must not mention the name of the nominee or any information which could identify them, except in a duly convened private session.
- 1.5 In accordance with the adopted procedure, the nomination was considered and supported by an informal, cross-party working group consisting of the Mayor and the leaders of the political groups.
- 1.6 The Cabinet is requested to consider and, if thought fit, to support the nomination and make a recommendation to Full Council.

2. Options Considered

- 2.1 The Cabinet is not bound by the recommendation of the working group and if members feel unable to support the nomination for any reason, the matter will not progress any further.
- 2.2 If the Cabinet supports the nomination it should recommend the award of Honorary Alderman by Full Council.
- 2.3 Members are requested to use their best judgement in determining whether the nomination set out at Exempt Appendix A meets the criteria for the award of Honorary Alderman.

3. Consultation

- 3.1 The nomination was considered and supported by the informal cross-party working group at their meeting on 28 February 2023.

Recommendation from Cabinet Advisory Board

- 3.3 The Communities and Economic Development Cabinet Advisory Board will be consulted on this decision at their meeting on 13 April 2023

4. Implementation

- 4.1 Subject to Cabinet's approval, the final decision will be made by Full Council on Wednesday 24 May 2023, but it will not be presented at this stage.
- 4.2 If the Council agrees the award, the nominee will then be formally advised and invited to accept the award.
- 4.3 Once the nominee accepts the award, they will be invited to attend the next convenient meeting of Full Council to receive the award in person (they may opt to receive the award privately) and the award will be publicly announced.
- 4.4 Holders of the title of Honorary Alderman are normally invited to various high-level civic events to demonstrate the Borough's continued appreciation for their work and contribution.

5. Appendices and Background Documents

Appendices:

- None

Exempt appendices (if any):

- Exempt Appendix A: Nomination Form
- Exempt Appendix B: Honorary Alderman Scheme Details

Background Papers:

- None

6. Cross Cutting Issues

A. Legal (including the Human Rights Act)

Under section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972 “a principal Council may, by a resolution passed by not less than two thirds of the Members voting thereon at a meeting of the Council specially convened for the purpose with notice of the object, 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 Members of the Council”.

Claudette Valmond – Head of Legal Partnership & Monitoring Officer – 3 April 2023

B. Finance and Other Resources

The cost will be met from the Democratic Services Budget.

Jane Fineman – Head of Finance, Procurement and Parking – 3 April 2023

C. Other Implications (Staffing, Risk Management, Environment and Sustainability, Community Safety, Equalities, Data Protection, Health and Safety, Health and Wellbeing)

Data Protection: The personal information of the nominee will remain exempt and/or redacted until such time as consent is given by the nominee to make the personal information manifestly public.

There are no other significant implications as a result of this decision.

Caroline Britt – Senior Democratic Services Officer – 24 March 2023