

## **General Purposes and Arbitration Committee**

**30 December 2014**

### **Nominations to the Position of Honorary Alderman and Honorary Alderwoman**

#### **1. Summary Statement**

- 1.1 In order to recognise eminent or notable service rendered to the Borough by former councillors, in 1997 the Council introduced a scheme for the enrolment of Honorary Aldermen of the Borough. This scheme was amended in 2008 to reduce the required number of years' service to twelve.
- 1.2 The Local Government Act 1972 gave authority to the Council to confer the honour to elected members who had given eminent service to the Borough. Local Authorities define the operation of the scheme within their Council areas.
- 1.3 The Committee is requested to consider an application by the Leader, Councillor Cooper, to nominate person(s) to the office of Honorary Alderman/Alderwoman.
- 1.4 If the Committee is minded to support the nomination(s), the Committee's recommendation will be submitted for the consideration of the Council at its meeting on 13 January 2015.

Further details are attached for your information

#### **2. Recommendation**

- 2.1 That Members consider nominations to the office of Honorary Alderman/Alderwoman.

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**Director – Governance**

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### **3. Strategic Resource Implications**

- 3.1 Local Authorities are empowered to incur reasonable expenditure on the provision of an address or casket on the conferment of the title of Honorary Alderman or Honorary Alderwoman.
- 3.2 It is the practice of this Authority to present a Badge of Office and a commemorative scroll to its Aldermen and Alderwomen, the cost of which is met from the civic ceremonial budget.

### **4. Legal and Statutory Implications**

- 4.1 The authority to confer the title of Honorary Alderman and the power to incur expenditure is contained within Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972, as now amended by Section 29 of the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

### **5. Implications for the Council's Scorecard Priorities**

- 5.1 Sandwell is celebrated in the Scorecard as 'a great place with great people and great prospects for the future'. Nominations of honorary aldermen and honorary alderwomen are an endorsement of the achievements of local people.

### **6. Background Details**

Details of the nominations will be provided to members prior to the meeting.

### **Source Documents**

Local Government Act 1972;  
Sandwell Council Scheme for the Enrolment of Honorary Aldermen;  
Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.