


General Purposes and Arbitration Committee

20 August 2018

Subject:	Honorary Alderman
Director:	Director - Monitoring Officer - Surjit Tour
Contribution towards Vision 2030:	
Contact Officer(s):	Andrea Cowley 0121 569 3171

DECISION RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the Committee considers recommending the Council to confer the title of Honorary Alderman on Mr Gurcharan Singh Sidhu.

1 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 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 Alderman of the Borough. This scheme was amended in 2008 to reduce the required number of years' service to twelve and in 2013 to reflect Section 29 of the Local Democracy , Economic Development and Construction Act 2009 to the effect that any reference to Honorary Alderman should be followed by the insertion of Honorary Alderman.
- 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 Councillor John Edwards, to nominate Mr Gurcharan Singh Sidhu to the office of Honorary Alderman.

- 1.4 In accordance with the scheme of enrolment, Mr Singh Sidhu has indicated his willingness to accept the nomination for enrolment as Honorary Alderman.
- 1.5 If the Committee is minded to support the nomination, the Committee's recommendation will be submitted for consideration at an Extraordinary Council meeting, to be held on 17 October 2018, immediately prior to the ordinary meeting of Full Council, scheduled to be held on the same day.

2 IMPLICATIONS FOR SANDWELL'S VISION 2030

- 2.1 Nominations for Honorary Alderman are an endorsement of the aspirations, talent and achievements of local people, captured by Ambition 1.

3 BACKGROUND AND MAIN CONSIDERATIONS

- 3.1 Mr Singh Sidhu has been in public office and represented the Greets Green and Lyng ward for 32 years, until 2018. He was formerly Chairperson of the Council's Education Committee and Audit Committee, and was Mayor of Sandwell for the Municipal Year 2007/2008. Mr Sidhu has given many years of service to the residents of Greets Green and Lyng ward. He is well respected and liked, and his 32 years as a Councillor is a testament to his commitment and dedication to the borough of Sandwell as a whole.
- 3.2 The Committee is invited to indicate whether or not it would wish to confirm the title on any person or persons. If the Committee wishes to nominate a suitable person it is recommended that an extraordinary meeting of Council is held on 17 October 2018, prior to the ordinary meeting of Council. The Council will consider this Committee's recommendations and, if appropriate, pass the necessary statutory resolutions required by Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972.

4 STRATEGIC RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 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.
- 4.2 It is the practice of this Authority to present a Badge of Office and a commemorative scroll to the Aldermen and Alderwomen, the cost of which is met from the civic ceremonial budget.

5 LEGAL AND GOVERNANCE CONSIDERATIONS

- 5.1 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.

Surjit Tour
Director – Monitoring Officer