

Report to General Purposes and Arbitration Committee

3 August 2023

Subject:	Nominations for Honorary Alderwoman
Director:	Director of Law and Governance and Monitoring Officer – Surjit Tour
Contact Officer:	Johane Gandiwa Johane_gandiwa@sandwell.gov.uk


1 Recommendations

- 1.1 That the Committee considers recommending that Council confer the title of Honorary Alderwoman upon Mrs. Elaine Costigan.

2 Reasons for Recommendations

- 2.1 The Committee is invited to indicate whether 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 24 October 2023, 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.

3 How does this deliver objectives of the Corporate Plan?

	<p>Nominations for Honorary Alderman/Alderwomen are an endorsement of the aspirations, talent and achievements of local people.</p>
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4 Context and Key Issues

- 4.1 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/Alderwomen.
- 4.2 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.
- 4.3 The Committee is requested to consider a nomination by Councillor Peter Hughes, to award an honorary title upon Mrs. Elaine Costigan.
- 4.4 Former Councillor Elaine Costigan served on Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council for 20 years, she had served on a number of Committees over the years, most notably served as Cabinet Member for Health & Protection, and as Town Lead for Wednesbury.
- 4.5 In accordance with the scheme of enrolment, Elaine Costigan has indicated her willingness to accept the nomination for enrolment as Honorary Alderwomen.
- 4.6 If the Committee is minded to support the nomination, the Committee's recommendation will be submitted for consideration at an Extraordinary Council meeting, immediately prior to the ordinary meeting of Full Council, scheduled to be held on the same day.

5 Implications

Resources:	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.
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	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.
Legal and Governance:	The authority to confer the title of Honorary Alderwoman 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.
Risk:	There are no risk implications arising directly from this report.
Equality:	There are no equality implications arising directly from this report.
Health and Wellbeing:	There are no health and wellbeing implications arising directly from this report.
Social Value	Nominations for Honorary Alderman/Alderwomen are an endorsement of the aspirations, talent and achievements of local people.
Climate Change	There are no climate change implications arising directly from this report.
Corporate Parenting	There are no corporate parenting implications arising directly from this report.

6 Appendices

Nomination Form

