

Report to General Purposes and Arbitration Committee

4 March 2024

Subject:	Nominations for Honorary Alderman
Director:	James McLaughlin Assistant Chief Executive
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1 Recommendations

- 1.1 That the Committee considers recommending that Council confer the title of Honorary Alderman upon Mr. Ahmadul Haque.

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 19 March 2024, 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/Alderwoman 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/Alderwoman.
- 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 Syeda Khatun MBE, to award an honorary title upon Mr. Ahmadul Haque.
- 4.4 Former Councillor Ahmadul Haque served on Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council for 20 years as councillor for Tipton Green Ward.
- 4.5 In accordance with the scheme of enrolment, Mr. Ahmadul Haque has indicated his willingness to accept the nomination for enrolment as Honorary Alderman.
- 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. It is the practice of this Authority to present a Badge of Office and a commemorative scroll to the Alderman and Alderwoman, the cost of which is met from the civic ceremonial budget.
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Legal and Governance:	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.
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

