

North Tyneside Council

Report to Extraordinary Council Meeting

Date: 18 May 2023

Title: Honorary Alderwoman

Portfolio(s): Elected Mayor	Cabinet Member(s): Dame Norma Redfearn DBE
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Report from Resources

Directorate:

Report Author: Stephen Ballantyne – Head of Law and Monitoring Officer (Tel: 643 5329)

Wards affected: All

PART 1

1.1 Executive Summary:

To inform full Council of a nomination received to confer the title of Honorary Alderwoman on a former Councillor of North Tyneside Council, to invite the Council to consider this nomination and to provide information about the Council's powers to confer such title.

1.2 Recommendation(s):

The Council is recommended to:

- (1) consider agreeing the resolution set out on the agenda; and
- (2) if the resolution is agreed, approve the list of civic ceremonies to which the Honorary Alderwoman would be invited to attend, as set out in the Appendix to the report.

1.3 Forward plan:

This report does not appear on the current Forward Plan. However, a motion has been received for this Council meeting requesting Council to approve conferring the title of Honorary Alderwoman at this meeting.

1.4 Council Plan and Policy Framework:

This report has no direct relevance to the 2021-2025 'Our North Tyneside' Council Plan or Policy Framework.

1.5 Information:

A motion, signed by four members of the Council, as set out on the agenda front, has been received.

The motion requests the Council to confer the title of Honorary Alderwoman on Mrs Muriel Anne Green BEM in recognition of her eminent services to North Tyneside Council in the office of Councillor and as an expression of the high regard in which she is held by Members of the Council.

Under Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972, the Council may "confer the title of honorary aldermen [alderwomen] 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 councillors of the council".

An Honorary Alderwoman would be entitled to attend and take part in such civic ceremonies as the Council may from time to time decide but would have no right (in that capacity) to take part in meetings of the Council or its committees and sub committees, or to receive any allowance. A list of proposed civic ceremonies is appended to this report.

The title can only be conferred upon past members of the Council who are not Members of this Council at the date of the meeting that appoints them.

Such a decision must be made by a resolution passed by not less than two thirds of the members voting thereon at an extraordinary meeting of the Council.

Conferring the title of Honorary Alderman/Woman on people, who have, in the opinion of the Council, rendered eminent services to the Council as past members, is an established way of recognising and paying tribute to their contribution.

If an Alderman/woman is subsequently re-elected onto the Council, they may not be addressed as Alderwoman or attend any civic ceremonies as referred to above, until they once more cease to be a Councillor.

Council is requested to note that if it is minded to approve the motion, arrangements will be made at a later date for a presentation and celebration of the designation with Mrs Green. Members would be advised of arrangements for that event in due course.

1.6 Decision options:

The Council can agree to confer or not to confer the title of Honorary Alderwoman.

1.7 Reasons for recommended option:

To comply with the motion that has been signed by four Members of the Council.

1.8 Appendices:

List of civic ceremonies to which the Honorary Alderwoman would be invited to attend.

1.9 Contact officers:

Stephen Ballantyne, Head of Law and Monitoring Officer, Legal Services, Resources Directorate Tel: 643 5329

Claire Emmerson, Head of Finance (Deputy S151 Officer), Finance, Resources Directorate Tel: 643 8109

1.10 Background information:

The following background papers/information have been used in the compilation of this report and are available at the office of the author:

The Local Government Act 1972

Motion signed by four Members of the Council

2.1 Finance and Other resources

The estimated cost of an awards ceremony, including catering, scrolls and medal, is £1,700. This expenditure would be met from existing budgets within the Resources Directorate.

2.2 Legal

The statutory provisions regarding the conferring of the title of Honorary Alderwoman are set out in section 1.5 of this report.

2.3 Consultation/community engagement

2.3.1 Internal Consultation

The Elected Mayor and Group Leaders have been consulted on the principle of conferring the award of Honorary Alderwoman.

The Member approval process, as set out in section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972, provides the key element to the consultation process.

2.3.2 External Consultation/Engagement

Not applicable.

2.4 Human rights

There are no human rights implications arising from this report.

2.5 Equalities and diversity

There are no direct equalities and diversity implications arising from this report.

2.6 Risk management

There are no identifiable risk implications arising from this report.

2.7 Crime and disorder

There are no crime and disorder implications arising from this report.

2.8 Environment and sustainability

There are no environment and sustainability implications arising from this report.

PART 3 - SIGN OFF

- Chief Executive X
- Director of Service X
- Mayor/Cabinet Member X
- Chief Finance Officer X
- Monitoring Officer X
- Assistant Chief Executive X

Proposed list of civic ceremonies to which the Honorary Alderwoman will be invited to attend:

Armed Forces Day

At Home

Civic Remembrance Services

Civic Dinner

Civic Sunday Service

Holocaust Memorial Day

Freedom of the Borough ceremonies

Any other civic duties, to be agreed in consultation with the Chair of the Council