

**HONORARY ALDERMEN**

**1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To consider conferring the title of Honorary Aldermen on former Members of the District Council who had rendered eminent service.

**2. SUMMARY OF BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 Under Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972 a Principal Council may, by resolution passed by not less than two thirds of the Members voting at a meeting of the Council specially convened for the purpose, confer the title of Honorary Aldermen on persons who have in the opinion of the Council rendered eminent service to the Council as past Members of that Council but who are not then Councillors of the Council.
- 2.2 Honorary Aldermen may attend and take part in such civic ceremonies as the Council may from time to time decide but would not have any specific right to attend meetings of the Council or Committees of that Council nor receive any allowances or payments.
- 2.3 Several other Local Authorities in the area award the title of Honorary Aldermen to former Members of those Councils but Lichfield District Council has never previously done so.
- 2.4 The appointment of an Honorary Aldermen is not a political issue and should be based on the services rendered by a former Member.
- 2.5 If Honorary Aldermen are agreed to, then the opportunity would exist for anyone to submit the name of any potential candidate to the Chief Executive for consideration however as none have previously been appointed care should be taken that numbers are restricted so that the honour is not devalued.
- 2.6 At a special meeting called to agree to the creation of an Honorary Aldermen a scroll or certificate would need to be prepared for presentation and a buffet could be arranged to celebrate the appointment to which former Member colleagues and members of the family of the recipient could be invited. A board showing the names of the persons appointed as Honorary Aldermen could be erected in the Council Chamber.

- 2.7 The work arising would be administered by the Executive and Civic Support Officer.

### **3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 3.1 There is no specific financial budgetary provision. The cost of the scroll or certificate would be financed from the Chairman's budget and the Cathedral School have agreed to provide a high quality wooden board with the names of the first few Honorary Aldermen being recorded on it at no cost to the District Council. There would be a subsequent cost for adding names with that cost being funded by the Chairman's budget. The Presentation Ceremony would be funded as part of a scheduled Council Meeting that would take place immediately after the Special Meeting with a full buffet taking place after the meeting.

### **4. RECOMMENDATION**

- 4.1 That the District Council agree to the appointment of Honorary Aldermen and that the implications be noted and accepted.