

REPORT:	Executive Board
DATE:	13 July 2023
REPORTING OFFICER:	Chief Executive
PORTFOLIO:	Leader
SUBJECT:	Protocol for the Appointment of Honorary Aldermen/ Alderwomen
WARDS:	Borough-wide

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

To receive a report from the Chief Executive recommending the adoption of a new Protocol for the Appointment of Honorary Aldermen/ Alderwomen.

2 RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Executive Board:-

- 1. Approve the Protocol for the Appointment of Honorary Aldermen/ Alderwomen appended to this report at Appendix B (“the Protocol”);**
- 2. Make a recommendation to Council that the Protocol be adopted.**

3 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 Section 249(1) of the Local Government Act 1972 states “that a principal council may, by a resolution passed by not less than two thirds of the members voting thereon, at a meeting of the Council specially convened for the purpose with notice of the object, confer the title of Honorary Alderman 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 members of the Council.” There is no statutory guidance or definition of “eminent services”. This is, instead, left up to local interpretation.

3.2 The Council has conferred the title to 8 Honorary Aldermen/Alderwomen since it has had the power to do so, with the last appointment being in 2001.

3.3 The Council's current protocol is at **Appendix A**. This simply reflects the law and does not set out any criteria or process of nomination and appointment.

3.4 So that clear guidance is provided for future Honorary Aldermen/Alderwomen and a fair and transparent process is followed, it is recommended that a new protocol is devised setting out both the criteria and procedure for nomination and appointment.

3.5 A suggested new protocol is appended at **Appendix B**. This has been drafted following a comparative exercise with our neighbouring authorities and is similar in nature. It is recommended that this now be approved by the Executive Board and recommended to Council for adoption.

3.6 If Members decide not to amend the current protocol, this will make considering future nominations difficult as there are no independent criteria to assess them against and may lead to the dilution of the importance of the title.

4. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

4.1 None

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 There are no financial implications for the introduction of a set of criteria for the purpose of conferring the title of Honorary Aldermen/Alderwomen.

6. IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

6.1 **Children and Young People in Halton**

N/A

6.2 **Employment Learning and Skills in Halton**

N/A

6.3 **A Healthy Halton**

N/A

6.4 A Safer Halton

N/A

6.5 Halton's Urban Renewal

N/A

7. RISK ANALYSIS

- 7.1 The appointment of Honorary Aldermen/ Alderwomen is discretionary and any risk to the Council is likely to be low. However, having criteria to assess nominees and a clear procedure for nomination and appointment ensures that there is a fair and transparent process and one that reflects public law principles.

8. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

- 8.1 There are no equality issues arising from this report.

9. CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 There are no climate change implications.

10. LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

None under the meaning of the Act.