



Report for: ACTION
Item Number: 6

Contains Confidential or Exempt Information	NO
Title	Honorary Aldermen and Freeman of the Borough
Responsible Officer(s)	Helen Harris, Director of Legal and Democratic Services
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Portfolio(s)	Not applicable
For Consideration By	Freedom of the Borough Committee
Date to be Considered	19 th September 2017
Implementation Date if Not Called In	Not Applicable
Affected Wards	None
Keywords/Index	Honorary Aldermen, Honorary Freeman

Purpose of Report:
To consider whether to propose to Council to create any further Honorary Freeman .and propose arrangements for the awards

1. Recommendations

- 1.1 That the committee consider whether they wish to make any further recommendation to Council as to people whom might be bestowed with the award of Honorary Freeman and, if so, consider the arrangements to be made.
- 1.2. That the committee note the financial implications for the ceremony.

2. Reason for Decision and Options Considered

It has been the usual practice, though it is not obligatory, for each administration to confer some honours during the final part of their term of office. There are two honours that can be bestowed.

a). **Honorary Aldermen**

The Council may appoint Honorary Aldermen as detailed in **appendix 1**.

At the last meeting of the Committee, on 22nd November 2016, it was agreed to nominate Eileen Harris for this award. That nomination will go forward to a special meeting of full council proposed to take place on 9th January 2018. All the former councillors eligible for the award were considered and it is not proposed to make any further awards during this administration.

b) **Honorary Freemen**

The Council may appoint Honorary Freemen of the borough as detailed in **appendix 2**

The last meeting of the Committee, on 22nd November 2016, agreed to nominate Brian Reeves and Harvey Rose for this award. Those nominations will go forward to a special meeting of full council proposed to take place on 9th January 2018

The committee are asked to consider if they wish to make any additional awards.

c). **Making the Awards.**

- (i) Note that each award needs to be bestowed through the vehicle of a Special Council meeting. This committee will make a resolution to the Special Council meeting.
- (ii) For the two awards two meetings are required as they cannot both be awarded at the same meeting. It is proposed to run two meetings consecutively on the same evening.
- (iii) While members might wish to consider whether to confer the award before an ordinary meeting of the Council this has not been the case where there has been more than one award. Details of how this was dealt with in the last three administrations are shown in **appendix 3**.
- (iv) It is proposed that these meetings take place on 9th January 2018. This would mean that the awards were given in the last calendar year of this administration.
- (v) There are two alternative dates available¹, either 28th November or 3rd April though the latter date is the day after the Easter Monday Bank Holiday.

¹ Council meetings are traditionally held on Tuesdays and no other dates are available.

d). What to award

- (i) For Honorary Alderman it is proposed to present a nicely framed certificate.
- (ii) For Honorary Freeman it is proposed to present a certificate, rather than a scroll as hitherto, and present a specially designed badge which could be worn at Civic occasions.

3. Key Implications

There will always be costs associated with the awards.

We are working on getting firm quotes and will inform the meeting of these.

The framed certificates are likely to cost around £25-£30 and the medals no more than £200.

The total cost is directly linked to how many awards are proposed.

Including room bookings and other minor expenses the cost are anticipated to be in the region of £1500. However, if more than two Honorary Freemen are created then this figure will be exceeded. Provided the cost does not exceed £1500 then it will be possible to contain the expenditure within Members Services budgets without any further action. If more than two Honorary Freemen are created then it will be necessary to cut other elements of the Members Services budgets in order to fund the expenditure.

4. Financial

4.1 Section 249 (6) of the Local Government Act 1972 allows the Council to spend such reasonable sums as it sees fit for the purpose of presenting an address to a person upon whom they have admitted to be an Honorary Alderman or Freeman of the Borough. Special Council meetings regarding Honorary Aldermen and Freemen of the Borough are only held once per administration.

4.2 There is no designated budget for these events. To fund these events savings will need to be identified from elsewhere within the Members Services budget.

5. Legal

The Council's powers regarding Honorary Aldermen and Freemen are contained in section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972.

6. Value For Money

Estimated costs are stated above and, it needs to be emphasised that, having regard to the fact that no budget exists for either of these events, members will need to keep expenditure to a reasonable level.

7. Sustainability Impact Appraisal

None.

8. Risk Management

None

9. Community Safety

None

10. Links to the 6 Priorities for the Borough

There are no clear links although the event will raise the profile of the civic leadership of the Council and the strong links to the community of Ealing. Any chosen Freeman will have made a major contribution to the Borough.

11. Equalities, Human Rights and Community Cohesion

Honorary Aldermen are drawn from ex-members of the Council and Freeman may be chosen from all sections of the community subject to the agreed criteria applying in both cases.

12. Staffing/Workforce and Accommodation Implications

None.

13. Property and Assets

None.

14. Consultation

The Freedom of the Borough Committee will consider this report. If it is decided to recommend that an Honorary Aldermen Special Council meeting and/or an Honorary Freeman Special Council meeting be held an appropriate report will be made to Council.

15. Timetable for Implementation

Once the date of the meetings are agreed the relevant parties will be informed and items procured.

16. Background Information

Previous reports to the Freedom of the Borough Committee

<http://ealing.cmis.uk.com/ealing/Committeesbefore2013/tabid/130/ctl/ViewCMISCommitteeDetails/mid/496/id/242/Default.aspx>

Consultation

Name of Consultee	Post Held and Department	Date sent to consultee	Date received from consultee	Comments appear in report paragraph
Helen Harris	Director of Legal and Democratic Services	6/9/17	7/9/16	throughout
Flora Osiyemi – Finance Business Partner - Consultancy		6/9/17	6/9/17	
Councillor Dheer	Chair of the Freedom of the Borough Committee	4/9/17	4/9/17	throughout

Report History

Decision type:	Urgency item?
Non-key decision	Not applicable.

Appendix 1 HONORARY ALDERMEN

FOR CONSIDERATION AFTER EACH BOROUGH COUNCIL ELECTION

The Council may by a resolution passed by not less than two thirds of the members voting thereon at a meeting of the Council especially 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 but who are no longer councillors. An Honorary Alderman may attend and take part in civic ceremonies but has no right, other than as a member of the public, to attend meetings of the Council or its committees or to receive any payments under the members' allowances scheme.

The Council's current policy on Honorary Alderman was agreed by Council on 17th May 2005 and states that:

The person should either:

- (a) have normally been elected as a councillor for Ealing Council (including its former authorities) on four or more occasions; or
- (b) have served as deputy mayor but not be a freeman or past mayor, in order not to duplicate any higher awards.

If someone meets the criteria it is not automatic that they become an Honorary Alderman. It is a matter for the Council to decide.

Appendix 2 HONORARY FREEMEN

FOR CONSIDERATION ONCE PER ADMINISTRATION

The 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 giving notice of the object, admit to be Honorary Freeman of the borough persons of distinction and persons who have in the opinion of the Council rendered eminent services to the borough. An Honorary Freeman may attend and take part in civic ceremonies and receive a free pass for the Council's car parks but has no right to receive any payments under the members' allowances scheme

The Council's current policy, as set out in minutes 1420/69 and 1088/90, is that:

- (a) proposals for admitting Honorary Freemen should normally be based on service to the community in at least two or three fields and not merely, for example, service to the Council.
- (b) there should be no stipulated minimum period of service but it should generally involve some personal sacrifice of time and energy beyond mere association with a particular service.
- (c) persons proposed should have some personal or official connections with the Borough or have rendered eminent service in connection with the borough or from which the borough has benefited to a greater extent than other boroughs or districts.
- (d) in exceptional circumstances consideration should be given to the admission of organisations.

Appendix 3 Recent Previous Honorary Freeman Awards

2002-2006

On 26th September 2002 a Special Council meeting awarded Honorary Freeman to Joan Ansell, Fred Dunkley and Rabindra Pathak

2006-2010

On 11th December 2007 a Special Council meeting awarded Honorary Freeman to Glen Barnham and Harry Greenaway.

2010-2014

On 8th September 2011 a Special Council meeting awarded Honorary Freeman to Julie Clements- Elliott, Michael Clements Elliot, Ian Green, Bernice McNaughton, Tony Miller and Archie Ross.

On 18th October a Special Council meeting awarded Honorary Freeman to Barbara Yerolomu. This meeting preceded an ordinary meeting of the Council.

On 16th October 2013 Special Council meeting awarded Honorary Freeman (Technically Freedom of Entry) to 562 Transport Squadron. This meeting preceded an ordinary meeting of the Council.