



## Constitution Working Party

### **Report title: Constitutional Provision for the Awards of Honorary Alderman and Alderwoman titles**

**Date:** September 16 2021.

**Class:** Part 1.

**Ward(s) affected:** All

**Contributors:** Interim Director of Law, Governance & Elections

### **Outline and recommendations**

This report describes the rights and process for a principal Council to award honorary titles to former members. The Working Party is asked to adopt a Constitutional revision making explicit that awards of the titles of Honorary Alderman and Honorary Alderwoman are a decision reserved to the Council, as shown at Appendix 2.

The Working Party is recommended to

- (1) receive the proposed Council report attached as Appendix 1
- (2) ask the Council to amend the Constitution to include the proposed revision at Appendix 2 of this report.

## Timeline of engagement and decision-making

There have been many Council decisions amending the Constitution since its introduction in 2002. Should this amendment be recommended by the Constitution Working Party it will be considered by the Council on September 29 2021. The rights to confer Honorary titles of Alderman and Alderwomen are statutory. Hitherto the Council has not exercised these rights but the agreement of the suggested Constitutional amendment would make explicit that this is a decision reserved to Council.

### 1. Summary

1.1. This report suggests the agreement to a Constitutional amendment on the award of Honorary Alderman and Honorary Alderwoman titles making explicit that decisions on proposals are reserved to the Council.

### 1.2. Recommendations

1.3. The Working Party is recommended to agree that:

(1) the Constitution be amended to include the proposed revision at Appendix 2 of this report.

(2) the proposed Council report attached as Appendix 1 be received.

### 2. Glossary

Term	Definition
Alderman & Alderwoman	Historically this was a co-opted member of an English county or borough council, next in status to the Mayor. Currently these are honorary awards that can be given to former Mayors and Councillors by Council resolution.

### 3. Report author and contact

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Article 4(r) of the Constitution on decisions reserved to the Council be extended with the text in bold to read:

(r) conferring the freedom of the borough **and creating Aldermen and Alderwomen**

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