



## Constitution Working Party

### **Report title: Constitutional Provision for the Awards of Honorary Aldermanic titles**

**Date:** January 5 2022.

**Class:** Part 1.

**Ward(s) affected:** All

**Contributors:** 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, Honorary Alderwoman and Honorary Alder 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 January 19 2022. The rights to confer Honorary titles of Alderman and Alderwoman 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, Honorary Alderwoman and Honorary Alder 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

3.1. Kevin Flaherty– Head of Business and Committee, London Borough of Lewisham, Laurence House, Rushey Green, SE6 4RU 0208 314 9327  
[kevin.flaherty@lewisham.gov.uk](mailto:kevin.flaherty@lewisham.gov.uk)

#### Is this report easy to understand?

Please give us feedback so we can improve.

Go to <https://lewisham.gov.uk/contact-us/send-us-feedback-on-our-reports>

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, Alderwomen and Alders.**

DRAFT

**Is this report easy to understand?**

Please give us feedback so we can improve.

Go to <https://lewisham.gov.uk/contact-us/send-us-feedback-on-our-reports>