



**NORTHAMPTON
BOROUGH COUNCIL**

Council

8 November 2004

Item No.

Report of Acting Chief Executive

Jon Warlow

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Appointment of Honorary Aldermen

Recommendation

That Council consider the recommendations of the Civic Matters Panel, and, subject to agreement to the creation of the role of Honorary Aldermen, further agree to convene a Special Meeting of the Council to recognise the eminent services rendered and the distinguished part played in the deliberations of the Council and the administration of its affairs by Cyril Benton and John Dickie and to make the appropriate presentations of Scrolls recording the event and the entry of the same on a Roll recording this.

Background

Under Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972 principal Councils can confer the title of Honorary Alderman on persons who have rendered eminent services to the Council as past Members.

The decision to confer the title has to be taken by a specially convened meeting of the Council, and at least two-thirds of members voting at the meeting must vote in favour of each nomination. The person receiving the title must be a past member of the Council. The honour is purely ceremonial.

Honorary Aldermen do not have the right to attend meetings of the Council, and do not have the right to receive allowances or other payments. However, the legislation allows for a "reasonable sum" to be spent on presenting an address or casket to the person upon whom the honour has been conferred, and Honorary Aldermen are able to attend and take part in civic ceremonies as decided by the Council.

The Civic Matters Panel have considered the issues and are recommending to the Council that Northampton Borough Council should begin a tradition of conferring the title of Honorary Alderman in exceptional circumstances on former members who have served the Council with distinction. The main purpose of conferring the title of Honorary Alderman is to recognise and celebrate past exemplary service. It is proposed that, on an award the Mayor would host a short formal ceremony to confer the title, and that this would also be marked by the commissioning of a Board of Honour upon which the entry would be inscribed, and by the presentation of a Scroll.

The Panel has further considered the eminent services rendered to the Borough and the distinguished part played in the deliberations of the Borough Council and the administration of its affairs by:-

1. Cyril Reginald Benton, as a member of the Council's predecessor authority the Northampton County Borough Council from 1965-1974, and of the Council from 1974-1995, and as Mayor of the Borough in 1986/1987 and
2. John Dickie as a member of the Northampton Borough Council and its predecessor authority from June 1973 to May 2003 and as Leader of the Council from May 1991-2000

and recommends that they be first recipients of the honour and that arrangements be made accordingly.

28 October 2004