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Northumberland County Council

Your ref:

Our ref:

Enquiries to: Jackie Roll

Email: Jackie.Roll@northumberland.gov.uk

Tel direct:

Date: 25 October 2022

Dear Sir or Madam,

Your attendance is requested at an **EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL** to be held in Council Chamber - County Hall on Wednesday, 2 November 2022 at 4.30 pm or on the rising of the Council meeting taking place at 3.00 pm, whichever is the sooner.

Yours faithfully

Rick O'Farrell
Interim Chief Executive

To County Council members



Rick O'Farrell, Interim Chief Executive
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AGENDA

PART I

It is expected that the matters included in this part of the agenda will be dealt with in public.

1. MOTION TO CONFER THE TITLE OF HONORARY ALDERMAN OF NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY COUNCIL

(Pages 1
- 10)

The business to be transacted at the Extraordinary County Council meeting (which is the only business which can be considered) is:

Motion to confer the title of Honorary Alderman of Northumberland County Council

Proposed by Cllr Glen Sanderson (Leader of the Council)
Seconded by Cllr Scott Dickinson

Pursuant to Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972, the Leader of the County Council, Councillor G. Sanderson, will move the following motion: -

“That the title of Honorary Alderman of Northumberland County Council be conferred on each of the following persons who have, in the opinion of the Council, rendered eminent service to the Council as past members”:-

Deirdre Campbell
Susan Elizabeth Dungworth
James Grant Davey
Gordon Webb
Anthony Harkness Murray

Margaret Evelyn Richards
Lesley Jennifer Rickerby
Ian Carr Fry Swithenbank
David Ledger
Thomas Sinclair Wilson

Note: To be effective, any resolution to confer the title Honorary Alderman must be passed by not less than two thirds of the members of the Council voting thereon.

The report is attached.

IF YOU HAVE AN INTEREST AT THIS MEETING, PLEASE:

- Declare it and give details of its nature before the matter is discussed or as soon as it becomes apparent to you.
- Complete this sheet and pass it to the Democratic Services Officer.

Name:		Date of meeting:	
Meeting:			
Item to which your interest relates:			
Nature of Interest i.e. either disclosable pecuniary interest (as defined by Table 1 of Appendix B to the Code of Conduct, Other Registerable Interest or Non-Registerable Interest (as defined by Appendix B to Code of Conduct) (please give details):			
Are you intending to withdraw from the meeting?		Yes - <input type="checkbox"/>	No - <input type="checkbox"/>

Registering Interests

Within 28 days of becoming a member or your re-election or re-appointment to office you must register with the Monitoring Officer the interests which fall within the categories set out in **Table 1 (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests)** which are as described in "The Relevant Authorities (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) Regulations 2012". You should also register details of your other personal interests which fall within the categories set out in **Table 2 (Other Registerable Interests)**.

"Disclosable Pecuniary Interest" means an interest of yourself, or of your partner if you are aware of your partner's interest, within the descriptions set out in Table 1 below.

"Partner" means a spouse or civil partner, or a person with whom you are living as husband or wife, or a person with whom you are living as if you are civil partners.

1. You must ensure that your register of interests is kept up-to-date and within 28 days of becoming aware of any new interest, or of any change to a registered interest, notify the Monitoring Officer.
2. A 'sensitive interest' is as an interest which, if disclosed, could lead to the councillor, or a person connected with the councillor, being subject to violence or intimidation.
3. Where you have a 'sensitive interest' you must notify the Monitoring Officer with the reasons why you believe it is a sensitive interest. If the Monitoring Officer agrees they will withhold the interest from the public register.

Non participation in case of disclosable pecuniary interest

4. Where a matter arises at a meeting which directly relates to one of your Disclosable Pecuniary Interests as set out in **Table 1**, you must disclose the interest, not participate in any discussion or vote on the matter and must not remain in the room unless you have been granted a dispensation. If it is a 'sensitive interest', you do not have to disclose the nature of the interest, just that you have an interest.

Dispensation may be granted in limited circumstances, to enable you to participate and vote on a matter in which you have a disclosable pecuniary interest.

5. Where you have a disclosable pecuniary interest on a matter to be considered or is being considered by you as a Cabinet member in exercise of your executive function, you must notify the Monitoring Officer of the interest and must not take any steps or further steps in the matter apart from arranging for someone else to deal with it.

Disclosure of Other Registerable Interests

6. Where a matter arises at a meeting which **directly relates** to the financial interest or wellbeing of one of your Other Registerable Interests (as set out in **Table 2**), you must disclose the interest. You may speak on the matter only if members of the public are also allowed to speak at the meeting but otherwise must not take part in any discussion or vote on the matter and must not remain in the room unless you have been granted a dispensation. If it is a 'sensitive interest', you do not have to disclose the nature of the interest.

Disclosure of Non-Registerable Interests

7. Where a matter arises at a meeting which **directly relates** to your financial interest or well-being (and is not a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest set out in **Table 1**) or a financial interest or well-being of a relative or close associate, you must disclose the interest. You may speak on the matter only if members of the public are also allowed to speak at the meeting. Otherwise you must not take part in any discussion or vote on the matter and must not remain in the room unless you have been granted a dispensation. If it is a 'sensitive interest', you do not have to disclose the nature of the interest.
8. Where a matter arises at a meeting which **affects** –
- a. your own financial interest or well-being;
 - b. a financial interest or well-being of a relative or close associate; or
 - c. a financial interest or wellbeing of a body included under Other Registrable Interests as set out in **Table 2** you must disclose the interest. In order to determine whether you can remain in the meeting after disclosing your interest the following test should be applied
9. Where a matter (referred to in paragraph 8 above) **affects** the financial interest or well- being:
- a. to a greater extent than it affects the financial interests of the majority of inhabitants of the ward affected by the decision and;
 - b. a reasonable member of the public knowing all the facts would believe that it would affect your view of the wider public interest

You may speak on the matter only if members of the public are also allowed to speak at the meeting. Otherwise, you must not take part in any discussion or vote on the matter and must not remain in the room unless you have been granted a dispensation.

If it is a 'sensitive interest', you do not have to disclose the nature of the interest.

Where you have an Other Registerable Interest or Non-Registerable Interest on a matter to be considered or is being considered by you as a Cabinet member in exercise of your executive function, you must notify the Monitoring Officer of the interest and must not take any steps or further steps in the matter apart from arranging for someone else to deal with it.

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Northumberland County Council

EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL

DATE: 02 NOVEMBER 2022

Honorary Aldermen/Alderwomen

Report of Head of Democratic and Electoral Services

Purpose of Report

To consider admission of Honorary Aldermen and Alderwomen of the County.

Recommendation:

To confer the title of Honorary Alderman /Honorary Alderwoman on the following:

- 1) Thomas Sinclair Wilson
- 2) David Ledger
- 3) Ian Carr Fry Swithenbank
- 4) Gordon Webb
- 5) Margaret Evelyn Richards
- 6) Lesley Jennifer Rickerby
- 7) Anthony Harkness Murray
- 8) Deirdre Campbell
- 9) Susan Elizabeth Dungworth
- 10) James Grant Davey

Link to Corporate Plan

This report is relevant to the “How” priority included in the draft NCC Corporate Plan 2021-2024 which states “We want to be efficient, open and work for everyone”.

Key Issues

- Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972 gives principal councils the power to confer the title of ‘Honorary Aldermen, or Honorary Alderwomen, on persons who have in the opinion of the Council, rendered eminent services to the Council but are no longer members of that authority.
- Under this legislation, a formal vote is required to proceed. No fewer than two-thirds of those present at the Council meeting must agree the nomination. The decisions of the Council on all nominations are final

- Should the vote be positive, at the next Council Meeting, those conferred with the title (or their representative) will be presented with a pin brooch, gift and certificate confirming the title by the Civic Head and given the opportunity to address the Council.

Background

1. In September 2021, Council **RESOLVED** that:-
 - (a) the Council agree to the reinstatement of the practice of appointing Honorary Aldermen/Alderwomen from the 2021 election onwards;
 - (b) a special Council (an extraordinary meeting of the Council), be convened to confer the title of Honorary Aldermen/ Alderwomen on those past Councillors meeting the criteria;
 - (d) the Protocol attached to that report be approved.
2. Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972 gives principal councils the power to confer the title of 'Honorary Aldermen, or Honorary Alderwomen, on persons who have in the opinion of the Council, rendered eminent services to the Council but are no longer members of that authority.
3. The agreed protocol is attached as Appendix A and states that the Leader in consultation with the Group Leaders consider nominations and assess them against the criteria on behalf of their Groups via the Chief Executive.
4. Appointments of Honorary Aldermen/Alderwomen must take place at an Extraordinary County Council meeting specially convened for the purpose. It is for this purpose that this Extraordinary Meeting has been convened. The nominations form the list of names in the recommendation and will be proposed and seconded at the meeting.
5. Two thirds of the members present must vote in favour of a resolution for the nominees to be appointed as an Honorary Alderman or Honorary Alderwoman.
6. The length of service as a Councillor whether continuous or broken and including former District Council service should be a minimum of 20 years, unless there are deemed to be exceptional circumstances where a shorter term may be considered.
7. The Leader of the Council and other political Group Leaders (on behalf of their Groups) have met to discuss nominations and they propose that the title of Honorary Alderman or Honorary Alderwoman be conferred on the following persons who meet the criteria, as set out in paragraph 8 below.
8. The nominations below will be formally proposed by Councillor Glen Sanderson, and seconded by Councillor Scott Dickinson:

Thomas Sinclair Wilson

David Ledger
 Ian Carr Fry Swithenbank
 Gordon Webb
 Margaret Evelyn Richards
 Lesley Jennifer Rickerby
 Anthony Harkness Murray
 Deirdre Campbell
 Susan Elizabeth Dungworth
 James Grant Davey

Implications

Policy	Protocol agreed by Council 21 September 2021
Finance and value for money	Small cost for scrolls etc.
Legal	<p>Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972 gives principal councils the power to confer the title of 'Honorary Aldermen, or Honorary Alderwomen, on persons who have in the opinion of the Council, rendered eminent services to the Council but are no longer members of that authority.</p> <p>Section 249 confers the function of appointing Honorary Aldermen or Honorary Alderwomen specifically to a meeting of the Council specially convened for this purpose.</p> <p>Part 2 para. 3(9) of the Local Authorities (Functions and Responsibilities) (England) Regulations 2000 confirm that the matters within this report are functions reserved to Full Council.</p> <p>These functions are set out within the terms of reference for Full Council in the Constitution.</p>
Procurement	None
Human Resources	None
Property	None
Equalities (Impact Assessment attached)	None

Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/>	
Risk Assessment	None
Crime & Disorder	None
Customer Consideration	None
Carbon reduction	None
Health and Wellbeing	None
Wards	None

Background papers:

Appendix A – Protocol for the Appointment of Honorary Aldermen/Alderwomen

Report sign off.

Authors must ensure that officers and members have agreed the content of the report:

	Full Name of Officer
Monitoring Officer/Legal	Suki Binjal
Executive Director of Finance & S151 Officer	Jan Willis
Relevant Executive Director	Rick O'Farrell
Interim Chief Executive	Rick O'Farrell
Portfolio Holder	Councillor Glen Sanderson

Appendix 1 attached

Protocol for the Appointment of Honorary Aldermen/Alderwomen

Background Papers

N/A

Author and Contact Details

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NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY COUNCIL

PROTOCOL FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF HONORARY ALDERMEN/ ALDERWOMEN

Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972 states that a Council “*may by 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 Aldermen (or Honorary Alderwomen), on persons who have in the opinion of the Council, rendered eminent services to the Council but are not then members of that Council*”.

1. Appointment

- 1.1 Appointments of Honorary Aldermen must take place at a County Council meeting specially convened for the purpose. The meeting can occur on the same date as another full council meeting. The nomination will be proposed and seconded. Two thirds of the members present at the meeting must vote in favour of a resolution for the nominee (s) to be appointed as an Honorary Alderman/ Alderwoman.
- 1.2 They will be presented with a certificate confirming the title by the Business Chair or Leader at the next Council meeting and will be given an opportunity to speak. The name of the Honorary Alderman will be placed on an honours board in County Hall.

2. Role

- 2.1 Those appointed to the role of Honorary Alderman or Honorary Alderwoman are entitled to use the title: ‘Honorary Alderman the County of Northumberland’ or ‘Honorary Alderwoman of the County of Northumberland’.
- 2.2 Honorary Aldermen or Alderwomen have the right to attend meetings of the County Council as members of the public. The title does not confer any special privileges or rights upon the appointee to speak or vote at Council meetings, beyond the rights and privileges already afforded to the public. The only rights that are conferred to an Honorary Alderman by virtue of their appointment is to be invited to Civic functions and events by invitation of the Council such as the annual Civic Dinner. They have no formal role on the Council.
- 2.3 The role of Honorary Aldermen or Alderwomen does not carry any right to claim any allowances payable under the Members Allowances Scheme.
- 2.4 Honorary Aldermen or Alderwomen cannot be appointed posthumously.
- 2.5 The role of Honorary Alderman or Alderwoman is an honorary one, but to the public they are perceived to be a representative of the Council. In taking up this role all Honorary Aldermen and Alderwomen must be aware of this, and:

(a) that the person becoming Alderman or Alderwoman does so in the full knowledge that they are perceived to be representative of the civic element of the Council and must act to the highest standards.

(b) In taking this role, the Alderman or Alderwoman becomes apolitical in public; knowing that any views expressed may be interpreted as views of the Council. Aldermen or Alderwomen are not to speak on behalf of the Council in any way whatever.

3. Criteria for the appointment of an Honorary Aldermen or Alderwomen

3.1 The statutory requirement is that the Council must be satisfied, in conferring the title that the person nominated has 'in the opinion of the Council, rendered eminent services to the Council as past members of the Council but who are no longer members of the Council.

3.2 There is no statutory definition of 'eminent service' but the Council will take account of the following matters in determining whether a person has provided eminent service to the Council in the past:

- (a) Each nomination will be assessed on its merit.
- (b) The length of service as a councillor whether continuous or broken and including former District Council service should be a minimum of 20 years.
- (c) Whether the person has held a position such as Leader, Deputy Leader, Chair or Vice-Chair of the Council or Committee or another senior position of the Council.
- (d) The extent that a person has contributed to Outside Bodies on behalf of the Council and the commitment given to that role.
- (e) The extent to which a person has actively participated in Ward issues on behalf of the Council beyond that normally expected of a councillor. This could include delivering projects with officers or simply acting as an effective liaison between residents and the Council on a number of issues.
- (f) Anything else that the former member has done that can be considered as 'eminent service'.
- (g) Nominations shall be made in writing setting out the reasons why the person should be nominated and addressed to the Chief Executive who will consult with the Leader of the Council and other political Group Leaders and if there is a sufficient degree of support for conferment of the title, then the Chief Executive will call a special Council meeting for that purpose.
- (h) Nominations may be made by serving Councillors

4. Removal of Title of Honorary Alderman

Approved by Council 1 September 2021

There may be occasions where, due to the past or future behaviour of individuals who have been appointed as Honorary Aldermen or Alderwoman, the Council may wish to remove the title of Honorary Alderman from an individual in order to protect the reputation of the Council. Removal of the title of Honorary Alderman will follow the same process as appointment (proposed and seconded, and then a resolution of two thirds of those present must be passed). However, it may take place at any meeting of Full Council rather than a specially convened meeting.

Version dated 01 September 2021

Approved by Council 1 September 2021

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