

BOROUGH OF KETTERING

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Report Originator	Chief Executive		
Wards Affected	All	16 th December 2015	
Title	HONORARY ALDERMEN AND FREEMEN OF THE BOROUGH		

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To consider appointing Honorary Aldermen and Freemen of the Borough of Kettering in recognition of eminent service to the Council or Borough.

2. INFORMATION

2.1 Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972 allows a Borough Council to appoint both Honorary Alderman and Honorary Freemen on those persons who have in the opinion of the Council, given eminent services to the council or Borough. This Council has never exercised the power although it is used in neighbouring councils.

Honorary Alderman

2.2 The title of Honorary Alderman is given to those who in the opinion of the Council have given "eminent service" to the Council. The title cannot be conferred on a serving councillor; it can only be given to a past member who has no intention of standing for election in the future.

2.3 The office of Honorary Alderman does not carry the right to participate in any meetings as a member of the Council or to claim any allowances. They can, however, attend and take part in such civic ceremonies as the Council may from time to time decide.

2.4 "Eminent service" is not defined in the legislation. It is usual practice among Councils who bestow this honour to adopt a general policy for the award of the honour of Honorary Alderman. Members may wish to consider as a basic criteria that the award of the title of Honorary Alderman be conferred on former members who have served as a Member of the Borough Council for at least 25 years and have rendered eminent services to the Council, or whose contribution during a shorter period of service is considered to be particularly distinguished or outstanding.

Honorary Freeman

2.5 Kettering Borough Council as a district Council with Borough status it is also able to appoint Freemen of the Borough. This honour can be given to persons of distinction and persons who have, in the opinion of the council have rendered

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eminent services to the Borough. This can include serving councillors and there is no bar to holding both titles.

- 2.6 The Council can decide what privileges an Honorary Freeman may enjoy. These are usually similar to those accorded to the Aldermen. They are not entitled to claim any expenses.
- 2.7 The Local Government Act provides that the appointment of Honorary Aldermen and Freemen must be appointed at a special meeting of the Council convened for that purposes. The resolution must be passed by a two thirds majority of the members in attendance at the meeting.

3. **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

There are no policy implications

4. **CONSULTATION AND CUSTOMER IMPACT**

None has been undertaken on the proposals.

5. **FINANCE IMPLICATIONS**

As a District Council with Borough status the Council may spend such reasonable sum as they see fit for the purpose of presenting an address or a casket containing an address to a person upon whom they have conferred a title. It is customary to present a scroll and hold a civic reception following the special council meeting. The costs are modest and can be met within existing overall budgets

6. **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

The legal basis for the appointment of Honorary Aldermen and Freemen are set out in Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972 as discussed in the report.

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7. RECOMMENDATION

That the Council:

1. Approves the principal of appointing Honorary Aldermen;
2. That the award of the title of Honorary Alderman be conferred on former members who have served as a Member of the Borough Council for at least 25 years and have rendered eminent services to the Council, or whose contribution during a shorter period of service is considered to be particularly distinguished or outstanding;
3. Approves the principal of appointing Honorary Freemen;
4. That the title of Honorary Freeman be conferred on any person who has in the opinion of the Council given eminent service to the Borough.
5. Subject to the decisions in 3 and 4 above to consider whether additional criteria should be developed for the appointment of Honorary Freemen: this may be facilitated through the Research and Development Committee.