Full Council   *4 October 2007*

Report of the Head of Civic, Democratic & Legal Services

Honorary Aldermen

Summary

1.   This report reviews the Council's current policy on the appointment of Honorary Aldermen and presents an amendment to the policy for consideration.

Background

2.   Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972 allows a principal council to confer the title of Honorary Alderman. On 17 June 1974 the York City Council Policy & Resources Committee considered a report from the Chief Executive on the procedure for exercising the section 249 discretion and agreed a criteria for determining what would be regarded as having rendered eminent services to the District Council or to the York City Council as a past member of either of these Councils.

3.   The Committee resolved:

     (i)   *that the Council agree to the principle of the appointment of Honorary Aldermen;*

     (ii)   *that former members of the City Council who have served for 20 years or more be automatically considered for the conferment of the honour of Honorary Aldermen;*

     (iii) *that the Working Party be authorised, if they so desire, to bring to the notice of the Council names other than those covered under (ii) above and that it be open to any serving member of the Council to submit names for the consideration of the Working Party; and*

     (iv)   *that the total number of Honorary Aldermen at any one time be limited to one-third of the Council's complement of members.*

4.   The current policy does not therefore take into account service representing the City of York area on the county council, prior to the unitary City of York Council being set up. It does however take into account service representing the current City of York area on district councils, prior to the unitary authority being set up. This position is inconsistent and it is therefore proposed to amend the policy to allow county council service to be counted.

5. The Local Government Act 1972 does not prevent county council service from being considered.

6. The current policy also limits the total number of Honorary Aldermen at any one time to one-third of the Council's complement of Members. Members may wish to reconsider this aspect of the policy as there are currently 13 Honorary Aldermen and therefore the limit of 15 has almost been reached.

Consultation

7. The Group Leaders have been consulted on the proposed changes to the policy and support the proposals.

Options

8. Members can approve the proposed change to the policy, suggest alternative changes or retain the existing policy.

Analysis

9. The proposed change to the policy would bring county council service in line with district council service.

Corporate Priorities

10. The proposed change contributes to the corporate priority of improving leadership at all levels to provide clear, consistent direction to the organisation.

Implications

11. There are no implications relating to any of the following areas:

    - **Financial**
    - **Human Resources (HR)**
    - **Equalities**
    - **Legal**
    - **Crime and Disorder**
    - **Information Technology (IT)**
    - **Property**
    - **Other**

Risk Management

12. In compliance with the Council's risk management strategy. There are no risks associated with the recommendations of this report.

Recommendations

13. (i) That the proposed change to the policy to include county council service be agreed.

Reason: To address the inconsistency in the current policy.

(ii) That consideration be given to amending the limit on the total number of Honorary Aldermen.

Reason: As the current limit has nearly been reached.

Contact Details

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Democratic Services	Report Approved ✓ Date 31/8/07

Specialist Implications Officer(s) None

Wards Affected: *List wards or tick box to indicate all* ✓

For further information please contact the author of the report

Background Papers:

Extract from the Local Government Act 1972
Minute from York City Council Policy & Resources Committee 17/6/1974

Annexes: *None*