

## CONFERRING THE TITLE OF HONORARY ALDERMAN

<b>Head of Service:</b>	Piero Ionta, Head of Legal and Monitoring Officer
<b>Wards affected:</b>	(All Wards);
<b>Urgent Decision?(yes/no)</b>	No
<b>If yes, reason urgent decision required:</b>	N/A
<b>Appendices (attached):</b>	None

### Summary

The report invites the Committee to consider conferring the title of Honorary Alderman on

1. former Councillor Eber Kington
2. former Councillor Chris Frost, and
3. the late former Councillor Clive Smitheram (awarded posthumously)

in recognition of their eminent services to the Borough.

### Recommendation (s)

**The Committee is asked to:**

- (1) Recommend that the Council places on record its deep appreciation of the eminent services to the Council rendered by**
  - a. former Councillor Eber Kington**
  - b. former Councillor Chris Frost, and**
  - c. the late former Councillor Clive Smitheram (awarded posthumously)**
- (2) That a Special Meeting of the Council be convened immediately following Full Council on 12 December 2023, at which members will be recommended to confer the title of Honorary Alderman.**

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### 1 Reason for Recommendation

- 1.1 This report invites the Committee to consider conferring the title of Honorary Alderman on
  - a. former Councillor Eber Kington
  - b. former Councillor Chris Frost, and
  - c. the late former Councillor Clive Smitheram (awarded posthumously)
- 1.2 It is customary for the Council in the first year of a new municipal term to consider the possibility of the award of honours to Councillors who have given long and distinguished service and who have usually held the office of Mayor of the Borough.
- 1.3 A nomination for the aforementioned former Councillors has been received by the Council's Chief Executive.
- 1.4 Former Councillor Eber Kington served as an Epsom and Ewell Borough Councillor for 36 years, from May 1987 to May 2023 and was Mayor of the Borough 1999-2000, and Deputy Mayor 2000-2001.
- 1.5 Former Councillor Chris Frost served as an Epsom and Ewell Borough Councillor for 24 years, from May 1999 to May 2023 and was Mayor of the Borough 2015-2016, and Deputy Mayor 2014-2015.
- 1.6 The late Former Councillor Clive Smitheram served as an Epsom and Ewell Borough Councillor for 23 years, from May 1999 to April 2022 and was Mayor of the Borough 2010-2011, and Deputy Mayor 2011-2012.

### 2 Background

- 2.1 Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972 allows Local Authorities to appoint both Honorary Freemen and Honorary Aldermen. The criterion for appointment as Freemen is that an individual should be a "person of distinction" and have "rendered eminent service to the place or area". The criterion for appointment as an Alderman is that an individual "should have rendered eminent service to the Council as [a] past Member of that Council". There is no bar on an individual being both an Honorary Freeman and an Honorary Alderman.
- 2.2 The Local Government Act specifies that both Honorary Freemen and Honorary Aldermen must be appointed at a Special Meeting of Council specifically convened for that purpose (so no other business can be transacted at such a meeting, with the appointment being endorsed by a two thirds majority of those Members in attendance at the meeting).

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- 2.3 Honorary Aldermen have no 'legal or social precedence' but it is custom and practice that they are invited to all Civic ceremonial events. The Aldermen have no right to attend meetings of the Council or its committees beyond those of the public, but the Council has recognised their attendance and allowing them to sit within the Chamber. The Aldermen status does not carry with it any allowances or payments to which serving councillors are entitled.
- 2.4 Until consideration of this matter, no prior considerations of the title of Honorary Alderman have been awarded posthumously. It is recommended in light of his exceptional service to the council, that it is appropriate to confer the status of Honorary Alderman posthumously as a mark of the Council's respect for the late former Councillor Clive Smitheram.

### 3 Risk Assessment

Legal or other duties

#### 3.1 Equality Impact Assessment

3.1.1 Not applicable

#### 3.2 Crime & Disorder

3.2.1 Not applicable

#### 3.3 Safeguarding

3.3.1 Not applicable

#### 3.4 Dependencies

3.4.1 Not applicable

### 4 Financial Implications

- 4.1 Section 249(4A) of the Local Government Act 1972 provides that principal councils:

*' . . . may spend such reasonable sum as it thinks fit for the purpose of presenting an address, or a casket containing an address, to a person upon whom it has conferred the title of honorary alderman or honorary alderwoman.'*

- 4.2 There are costs of preparing the traditional scrolls and a photographer for the ceremony. It is also customary for the Council to cover the cost of any hospitality provided for the newly elected Alderman and a select number of guests. Hospitality will be held on a date to be confirmed in March 2024 at a Civic event held at Bourne Hall.

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4.3 It is estimated that these costs will amount to £4,250 in total and will be met from existing budgets.

4.4 **Section 151 Officer's comments:** None arising from the contents of this report.

### 5 Legal Implications

5.1 The formal decision to confer the status of Honorary Alderman must be ratified by a Special Meeting of the Council.

5.2 **Legal Officer's comments:** None arise from the content of this report.

### 6 Policies, Plans & Partnerships

6.1 **Council's Key Priorities:** This proposal does not engage any of the Council's Key Priorities.

6.2 **Service Plans:** The matter is not included within the current Service Delivery Plan.

6.3 **Climate & Environmental Impact of recommendations:** Not applicable.

6.4 **Sustainability Policy & Community Safety Implications:** Not applicable

6.5 **Partnerships:** Not applicable

### 7 Background papers

7.1 The documents referred to in compiling this report are as follows:

**Previous reports:**

- None

**Other papers:**

- None