

## **TRAFFORD COUNCIL**

**Report to:** Extraordinary Meeting of the Council  
**Date:** 23 March 2022  
**Report for:** Decision  
**Report of:** Corporate Director of Governance and Community Strategy

### **Report Title**

**Conferment of the Title of Honorary Alderman**

### **Summary**

This report recommends that the title of Honorary Alderman be conferred on former Councillors Brian Rigby MBE and Whit Stennett MBE.

### **Recommendation(s)**

That, being of the opinion that former Councillor Brian Rigby MBE and former Councillor Whit Stennett MBE, have rendered eminent services as past members of the Council, the Council, under the provisions of the Local Government Act 1972, hereby confers the title of Honorary Alderman upon former Councillor Brian Rigby MBE and former Councillor Whit Stennett MBE, in recognition of their exceptional service to the Borough of Trafford.

Contact person for access to background papers and further information:

Name: Ian Cockill, Senior Governance Officer  
Extension: 1387

### **Background Papers:**

Nominations from Councillors Nathan Evans and Andrew Western.

## **Background Information**

|   |   |
|---|---|
| Relationship to Corporate Priorities                | None  |
| Relationship to GM Policy or Strategy Framework     | None  |
| Financial   | There are some minor costs associated with the award arising from the award of medals for the Aldermen. This will be met from the Democratic Services budget. |
| Legal Implications                                  | The formal decision to confer the status of Honorary Alderman must be made by an Extraordinary Meeting of the Council.  |
| Equality/Diversity Implications                     | None  |
| Sustainability Implications                         | None  |
| Carbon Reduction Implications                       | None  |
| Staffing/E-Government/Asset Management Implications | None  |
| Risk Management Implications                        | None  |
| Health and Safety Implications                      | None  |

## **Background**

Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972 provides that the title of Honorary Alderman may be conferred by the Council on persons who have, in its opinion, rendered eminent service to the Council as past Members of this Council, (or a predecessor Council), but who are no longer Councillors. The title is to be conferred by a resolution passed by not less than two thirds of the Members voting on it at a meeting of the Council specially convened for the purpose.

Any Member of Council may nominate an ex-Councillor for the role of Honorary Alderman. The appointment of Honorary Alderman is to confer recognition on previous Councillors who, over a period of time, have made a significant contribution to the Council in particular and public service. They should meet the following criteria in that they:-

- No longer hold the position of Councillor;
- Must have served for a minimum of 20 years on the Council;
- Must have rendered eminent services during their time on the Council;
- Must have made a significant contribution to the Council and the people it represents; and
- are no longer politically active.

Conferring the title of Honorary Alderman entitles the recipient to be invited to attend Council meetings in a nonparticipating capacity and to attend and take part in other civic ceremonies such as Civic Sundays and Remembrance Sundays and other appropriate civic events.

Councillor Andrew Western, Leader of Trafford Council and Councillor Nathan Evans, the Conservative Group Leader on the Council have respectively proposed that former Councillors Rigby and Stennett be conferred the status of Honorary Alderman and have submitted the following in support of their nominations:

## **MR. BRIAN DEAN RIGBY MBE**

Brian Rigby was elected to Trafford Council in 1994, representing the Mersey St. Mary's Ward until boundary changes, when from 2004 he represented Ashton upon Mersey Ward until his retirement in 2019. He contributed 27 years as a Trafford councillor. In particular, Brian served for many years on the Planning Committee and chaired the Employment Committee for several years.

His great passion though was education. Brian was chair of governors at Ashton on Mersey High School for 28 years. During this time the school achieved many outstanding Ofsted reports and in 2005, on Brian's initiative, a partnership was formed with Broadoak School in Partington, which has since seen record results achieved by pupils. In 2006 Brian was awarded the MBE for services to Education, yet his work in Education soared onwards and upwards. The partnership was so successful that the Department of Education encouraged Ashton on Mersey school to expand and form a multi school academy trust, now known as the Dean Trust. Brian subsequently became chair of the Dean Trust, and a national leader in governance, sharing his expertise with governing bodies, experiencing difficulties throughout the North West.

In 2017, Brian led a successful interim executive board tasked with turning around the fortunes of the Bollin Primary School following an Ofsted report that required the school to be put into special measures.

Beyond Trafford, Brian served on Transport for Greater Manchester and the Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Authority.

An important annual occasion for Brian is the Remembrance Day ceremony outside Sale Town Hall. For many years he called out the various wreath layers in that part of the service.

As a Ward Councillor Brian has always considered the interests of the people of Ashton upon Mersey, dealing with countless items of case work and holding many advice surgeries. Together with his ward colleagues and community groups, Brian played a leading part in promoting large scale community events in the village of Ashton and in Ashton Park.

## **MR. WHIT STENNETT MBE**

Former Councillor Whit Stennett MBE served the Old Trafford community as a Clifford Ward representative for 28 years. He has been a strong voice for his community throughout and a staunch advocate for the principles of tolerance, diversity and inclusion. His community work has been recognised nationally with lifetime achievements awards and of course the MBE.

Whit has served on a number of internal committees in his time on the Council as well as being appointed to a range of outside bodies such as Trafford Leisure.

Whit is a former Mayor of Trafford and without doubt given his enormous contribution to our Borough I feel he meets the criteria necessary to be awarded Alderman Status.