

TRAFFORD COUNCIL

Report to: Extraordinary Meeting of the Council
Date: 27 January 2021
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 posthumously on former Councillors Jane Baugh and Raymond Bowker MBE.

Recommendation(s)

That, being of the opinion that former Councillor Jane Baugh and former Councillor Raymond Bowker 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 Jane Baugh and former Councillor Raymond Bowker 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:

Letter of nomination from Cllr 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, has proposed that former Councillors Baugh and Bowker be conferred the status of Honorary Alderman and has submitted the following in support of the nomination:

MRS. JANE BAUGH

The late Jane Baugh represented Broadheath ward from 1990-2004 and Priory ward from 2004 onwards until her death as a serving Councillor in January 2020. She served as the Borough's Mayor in 2011/12 and raised more than £26,000 for a number of charities including The Stroke Association, Parkinson's UK, Altrincham General Hospital's League of Friends, Trafford Stroke Support Group, the Alex Hulme Foundation and Trafford Carers' Centre. During her time as a Councillor she served several terms as an Executive Member for Children's Services and Culture and Leisure portfolios and also served as a Shadow Executive Member. Her particular passion was for Arts and Culture, the Waterside Arts Centre, Music and Children's Services. In addition to her Councillor role, she was appointed to Council outside bodies including meetings of AGMA. Jane served as vice chair of Sale Festival, and was a member of the Friends of Worthington Park and the Friends of Walkden Gardens. She stood twice as an MP in Altrincham and Sale West. Given Jane's many years of service and significant contribution to the borough of Trafford, she is worthy of the honour.

MR. RAY BOWKER

The late Ray Bowker MBE served on the Council for over 42 years since Trafford's inception in 1973 to 1976 and then uninterrupted from 1980 until his death as a serving Councillor in January 2020. He was the Borough's Mayor during the millennium year and raised more than £71,000 for two local charities – Trafford Young Carers Project and Trafford Crossroads – during this time. Ray represented Village ward in Timperley and was the Liberal Democrat Group Leader for many years. In 2002 Ray was awarded an MBE for a lifetime of service to the community. He held a long and distinguished local government career, serving on a whole host of Council Committee and was known for his great passions, Timperley, Trafford and the welfare of young people. He was a lifelong Timperley resident, and served on many school governing bodies including his former school Wellington and was Chair of Governors at Broomwood Primary School in Timperley. He also served for more than 40 years in the Boys Brigade, 7th Altrincham Company at Timperley Methodist Church. Ray is described as a "giant in Trafford politics". With the significant years of service and contribution within Trafford, as well as his passion for his community Ray is worthy of this honour.

Unfortunately, as both the nominees passed away during the 2019/20 Municipal Year, the honour is recommended to be awarded posthumously as a tribute and a mark of respect to their families.