

Report to Council

Nominations for Honorary Freeman and Honorary Alderman

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Executive Summary

Nominations have been received and considered by the Council's Political Group Leaders for Honorary Alderman and Honorary Freeman. Full Council may, at special Council meeting by formal resolution, bestow the honours of Honorary Freeman and Alderman and the resolution should be passed by no less than two-thirds of the Members at a special meeting of the Council. A formal presentation then takes place at a special ceremony at a later date.

Recommendations

1. That Council confer the title of Honorary Alderman on Riaz Ahmad as in the opinion of the Council he has rendered eminent service to the Council as a past Member and Mayor.
2. That Council confer the title of Honorary Alderman on John Hudson as in the opinion of the Council he has rendered eminent service to the Council as a past Member and Mayor.
3. That Council confer the title of Honorary Alderman on Bernard Judge as in the opinion of the Council he has rendered eminent service to the Council as a past Member and Mayor.
4. That Council admit Zahid Chauhan to be Honorary Freeman of Oldham as in the opinion of the Council he has rendered eminent services to the Borough of Oldham.

1. Background

- 1.1 Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972 allows a Council to appoint both Honorary Alderman and Honorary Freeman on those persons who have in the opinion of the Council, given eminent services to the Council or Borough respectively.
- 1.2 Honorary Alderman status is for former Councillors who, in the opinion of the Council, rendered eminent services to the Council as past Members of the Council. No honorary alderman can be addressed as such whilst being a serving member of the Council.
- 1.3 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.
- 1.4 Nominations have been received for Riaz Ahmad, John Hudson and Bernard Judge.
- 1.5 Full Council is also able to admit 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 eminent services to the Borough. 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.
- 1.5 The Honorary Freeman accolade is for persons, who, in the opinion of the Council, rendered eminent services to the Borough.
- 1.6 A nomination has been received for Zahid Chauhan.

2. Nominations

- 2.2 The nomination is subject to not less than two-thirds of members voting in favour at this Council meeting where due notice is given. It is proposed to hold a special meeting of the Council prior to Mayor Making and the Annual General Meeting in May.
- 2.3 The ceremony includes presentation in the Council Chambers with medallion and illuminated scroll followed by celebration afternoon tea. Guests include Honorary Freeman, Honorary Alderman, Deputy Lieutenants, Elected Members, Chief Officers and other distinguished guests. The recipient can invite a small number of guests. The timing of the ceremony will be autumn.

