


Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council

Extraordinary Meeting

16 October 2018

Subject:	Honorary Alderman of the Borough
Director:	Director - Monitoring Officer - Surjit Tour
Contribution towards Vision 2030:	
Contact Officer(s):	Trisha Newton 0121 569 3193

DECISION RECOMMENDATIONS

- (1) that the office of Honorary Alderman of the Borough be conferred upon Mr Gurcharan Sidhu;
- (2) that the Director – Monitoring Officer, in consultation with the Mayor and Leader of the Council, be authorised to make the appropriate arrangements to implement the decision set out in (1).

1 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 The General Purposes and Arbitration Committee, at its meeting held on 20 August 2018, considered proposals to admit suitable persons as Honorary Alderman.
- 1.2 All members of the General Purposes and Arbitration Committee supported a proposal from Councillor Edwards that the following person be nominated to the office of Honorary Alderman:

Mr Gurcharan Sidhu

Mr Sidhu had been in public office for 32 years representing the Greets Green and Lyng ward until his retirement from office, due to ill health, in 2018. He was formerly Chairperson of the Council's Education Committee and Audit Committee and was Mayor of Sandwell for the Municipal Year 2007/2008.

- 1.3 The Committee felt that Mr Sidhu had given many years of service to the residents of Greets Green and Lyng ward, which was a testament to his commitment and dedication to the borough of Sandwell as a whole and recommended that he be conferred to the office of Honorary Alderman of the Borough.

2 IMPLICATIONS FOR SANDWELL'S VISION

- 2.1 Nominations for Honorary Alderman/Freemen are an endorsement of the talent and achievements of local people, captured by Ambition1.

3 STRATEGIC RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 Local Authorities are empowered to incur reasonable expenditure on the provision of an address or casket on the conferment of the title of Honorary Alderman.
- 4.2 It is the practice of this Authority to present a Badge of Office and a commemorative scroll to the Aldermen, the cost of which is met from the civic ceremonial budget.

4 LEGAL AND GOVERNANCE CONSIDERATIONS

- 4.1 The authority to confer the title of Honorary Alderman and the power to incur expenditure is contained within Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972, as now amended by Section 29 of the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.

5 CONSULTATION (CUSTOMERS AND OTHER STAKEHOLDERS)

- 5.1 No consultation is required. The proposal is subject to approval by full Council.

6 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 6.1 There are no alternative options. The proposal is subject to approval by full Council.

7 EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 7.1 An equality impact assessment is not required.

8 DATA PROTECTION IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 8.1 A data protection impact assessment is not required.

9 CRIME AND DISORDER AND RISK ASSESSMENT

- 9.1 There are no crime and disorder issues arising from this report.

10 SUSTAINABILITY OF PROPOSALS

- 10.1 There are no implications arising from this report.

11 HEALTH AND WELLBEING IMPLICATIONS (INCLUDING SOCIAL VALUE)

- 11.1 There are no health and wellbeing implications arising from this report.

12 IMPACT ON ANY COUNCIL MANAGED PROPERTY OR LAND

- 12.1 There is no impact on any Council managed property arising from this report.

13 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 13.1 Minutes of the General Purposes and Arbitration Committee held on 20 August 2018 (Minute No. 8/18 refers).

Surjit Tour
Director – Monitoring Officer