

Report to: **Special Council**

Date: **28 November 2019**

Title: **Honorary Alderman – Nomination**

Portfolio Area: **Council – Cllr Pearce**

Wards Affected: **All**

Urgent Decision: **N** Approval and clearance obtained: **Y**

Date next steps can be taken: **If approved, a presentation will take place during the Council meeting on 19 December 2019**

Author: **Darryl White** Role: **Senior Specialist – Democratic Services**

Contact: **Darryl.White@swdevon.gov.uk**

RECOMMENDATION:

That, in accordance with Section 249(1) of the Local Government Act 1972, Special Council confer the title of Honorary Alderman of the Council upon Mr John Tucker, in recognition of his 22 years service as a Ward Member for West Dart.

1. Executive summary

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek approval, in accordance with Section 249(1) of the Local Government Act 1972, to the nomination of Mr John Tucker to receive the title of Honorary Alderman of the Council, in recognition of his service and dedication to the local community.
- 1.2 The legislation also states that Special Council meeting(s) can be specially convened for the purpose of approving nominations for persons to receive the title of Honorary Aldermen of the Council.
- 1.3 A nominee requires the support of not less than two-thirds of the Members voting thereon at this Special Council meeting.

- 1.4 This report requests that the Council now confers the title of Honorary Alderman on Mr John Tucker.

2. Background

- 2.1 The title is conferred upon persons 'who have, in the opinion of the Council, rendered eminent services to the Council as past Members of that Council, but who are not then Members of the Council' (Section 249(1), Local Government Act 1972).
- 2.2 The agreed criteria for conferring the title Honorary Aldermen are:
- (a) the title may be conferred on persons who have, in the opinion of the Council, rendered "eminent services" to the Council as past Members, but who are no longer serving Members;
 - (b) there shall be no specific definition of 'eminent services', it being left to the discretion of the Council at the time to assess and recognise any individual's contribution to the activities of the Council and the wellbeing of the district of the South Hams;
 - (c) Nominees would normally require a minimum period of 12 years past service as a Member of the Council.
- 2.3 A nomination has been received for Mr John Tucker to be conferred the title of Honorary Aldermen and this proposal is presented to this Special Council meeting for consideration.
- 2.4 **Mr John Tucker**
- i) John served as a local Ward Member for West Dart for 22 years (1997 – 2019);
 - ii) He was the Deputy Leader of the Council from 1999 to 2007 and Leader of the Council from May 2007 to May 2019 during which time, in response to increasing financial pressures, the Council became one of the first in the Country to share its services with another local authority culminating in a fully shared workforce with West Devon Borough Council in 2011 saving the Council over £2 Million in the first six years;
 - iii) As a result of the loss of Government funding from 2014, John drove through the ambitious and challenging Transformation Programme, making the Council one of the first in the country to introduce innovative working methods increasing efficiency and allowing the protection of frontline services but with a reduction of 30% in staffing. The project now delivers annual recurring

revenue savings of over £3Million and has proven to be an operating model adopted by other Authorities across the Country with John at the heart of the sharing of good practice and the success of the Programme, protecting the future of the Council and its Services for local people.

3. Outcomes/outputs

- 3.1 Whilst having no “legal or social precedence” in the community, it is custom and practice for Honorary Aldermen to be invited to Civic ceremonial events. This would be the Annual Council meeting, the Chairman’s Civic events, and other events such as any future appointment of Honorary Aldermen.

- 3.2 The status of Honorary Alderman carries no special right to attend or address meetings of the Council or its committees or to receive any allowances or payments to which serving Members are entitled. However, at the discretion of the Chairman, a nominee for Honorary Alderman may (if present) be invited to respond to the vote conferring that status.

4. Options available and consideration of risk

- 4.1 The Council could decide that it does not wish to approve the recommendation which would lead to significant reputational damage and embarrassment.

5. Proposed Way Forward

- 5.1 It is recommended that the Council confers the title of Honorary Alderman on John Tucker as highlighted in this report.

6. Implications

Implications	Relevant to proposals Y/N	Details and proposed measures to address
Legal/Governance	Y	Section 249(1) of the Local Government Act 1972
Financial implications to include reference to value for money		None directly arising from this report
Risk		The risks are outlined at Section 4.1 of the report.
Supporting Corporate Strategy		Council – Delivering efficient and effective services.

Climate Change - Carbon / Biodiversity Impact		None directly arising from this report
Comprehensive Impact Assessment Implications		
Equality and Diversity		None directly arising from this report
Safeguarding		None directly arising from this report
Community Safety, Crime and Disorder		None directly arising from this report
Health, Safety and Wellbeing		None directly arising from this report
Other implications		N/A

Supporting Information

Appendices:

None

Background Papers:

None