



**FOR PUBLICATION**

**DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

**COUNCIL**

**14 July 2021**

**Report of the Managing Executive Director, Commissioning,  
Communities and Policy**

**Honorary Alderman and Alderwoman**

## **1 Purpose**

1.1 To agree to change the date for the special Council meeting to confer the honorary title of Honorary Alderman and Alderwoman until such time as deemed appropriate following the lifting of the Covid-19 restrictions.

## **2 Information and Analysis**

2.1 At the Council Annual General Meeting on 26 May 2021, it was agreed to confer the title of Honorary Alderwoman upon former Councillors E Atkins, L Chilton, I Ratcliffe, J A Twigg and A Western and Honorary Alderman upon former Councillors K Buttery, P Murray, P Smith, G Wharmby and D Wilcox. It was also agreed to convene a special meeting of the Council on 14 July 2021 to formally consider the nominations. At the time this date was proposed it was expected that the covid-19 restrictions would be lifted on 29 June in accordance with the government's roadmap out of the current lockdown.

2.2 It is now known that the Covid-19 restrictions did not cease as expected on 29 June 2021. It is usual practice for invitations to be extended to family and friends of those nominated to allow them to attend the special meeting of Council and observe the conferring of the title of Honorary Alderman and Honorary Alderwoman. If the special Council meeting proceeded as agreed on

14 July, restrictions would still apply and the celebratory event would not be able to take place in the usual way.

2.3 It is therefore proposed that the convening of a special meeting of the Council is deferred until such time as the Covid-19 restrictions are lifted so that an appropriate celebratory event, in the presence of their family and friends, can be held to recognise those individuals who have rendered eminent service as past members. Those nominated to receive the title of Honorary Alderman and Honorary Alderwoman will be contacted by Officers in respect of the date of the special meeting.

### **3 Alternative Options Considered**

3.1 Continuing to convening a special Council meeting on 14 July 2021 within the current Covid-19 guidance and restrictions; however this is not considered appropriate for the reasons set out above.

### **4 Implications**

4.1 Appendix 1 sets out the relevant implications considered in the preparation of the report.

### **5 Consultation**

5.1 Not applicable.

### **6 Background Papers**

6.1 None.

### **7 Appendices**

7.1 None.

### **8 Recommendation**

8.1 That Council:

- (a) agrees to convene a special meeting of the Council either before or after a future scheduled meeting of the Council after such time when Covid-19 restrictions are lifted.

### **9 Reasons for Recommendation**

- 9.1 As a result of the need to continue to comply with the Covid-19 restrictions. When the date for the special meeting was originally agreed, it was expected that the covid-19 restrictions would be lifted on 29 June in accordance with the government's roadmap out of the current lockdown.
- 9.2 To ensure that an appropriate celebratory event, in the presence of their family and friends, can be held to recognise those individuals who have rendered eminent service as past members.

**Emma Alexander**  
**Managing Executive Director, Commissioning, Communities and Policy**

## **Implications**

### **Financial**

1.1 None.

### **Legal**

2.1 Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972 enables a principal council to confer the title of honorary aldermen or honorary alderwomen on persons who have in the opinion of the Council rendered eminent service as past members. To confer the honorary title, the Council must pass a resolution by not less than two-thirds of the Members present at that meeting.

2.2 An honorary alderman or alderwoman may attend and take part in such civic ceremonies as the council may from time to time decide, but shall not have the right—

- (a) to attend meetings of the council or a committee of the council (including a joint committee upon which they are represented); or
- (b) to receive any allowances or other payments.

2.3 The Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions) (Steps) (England) Regulations 2021 and government guidance set out current coronavirus restrictions. In summary, individuals can meet up indoors with friends and family they do not live with, either:

- in a group of up to 6 from any number of households (children of all ages count towards the limit of 6)
- in a group of any size from up to two households (each household can include an existing support bubble, if eligible)

2.4 Gatherings above the limit of 6 people or 2 households indoors can only take place if they are covered by a legal exemption. Once such exemption is meeting others where it is necessary for work and this can be relied upon with regard to those required to attend the special council meeting. However, it would not be necessary for friends and family to attend this meeting

### **Human Resources**

3.1 None.

### **Information Technology**

4.1 None.

## **Equalities Impact**

5.1 None.

## **Corporate objectives and priorities for change**

6.1 None.

## **Other (for example, Health and Safety, Environmental Sustainability, Property and Asset Management, Risk Management and Safeguarding)**

7.1 None.