

23 September 2021**Agenda Item: 3****REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE****HONORARY ALDERMEN****Purpose of the Report**

1. To propose the appointment of two former members of the County Council as Honorary Aldermen.

Information

2. Under Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972, a principal council may, by a resolution passed by not less than two-thirds of the members voting thereon at a meeting of the Council specially convened for the purpose with notice of the object, confer the title of honorary aldermen on persons who have, in the opinion of the Council, rendered eminent services to the Council as past members, but who are not then serving members of the Council.
3. An Honorary Alderman may attend and take part in such civic ceremonies as the Council may from time to time decide. They may attend meetings of the Full Council but are not entitled to take part in the debate or vote, or to receive any allowances by virtue of that office.
4. The status of Honorary Alderman is intended to recognise former members who have provided long and exceptional services to the Council. The service which is being recognised is likely to include exceptional contribution to:
 - the political leadership of the Council
 - the leadership and development of the Council's services, main functions, and/or civic life
 - the political life of the County.
5. It is intended that the position of Honorary Alderman will be awarded to only a very few former members whose overall contribution can universally be acknowledged as being exceptional.
6. Since 1974 the council has only appointed six Honorary Aldermen, Martin Brandon-Bravo OBE, Stewart Pattinson, Sir Dennis Pettitt, Hon. Joan Taylor MBE, Terry Butler and John Carter which indicates the level of service recognised by the appointment.

Proposal

7. Following appropriate discussions, it is proposed that the Council considers appointing Joyce Bosnjak and Mrs Kathrine Cutts MBE as Honorary Aldermen.

Joyce Bosnjak

8. First elected in 1993, Joyce Bosnjak's service has been both long and exceptional. Throughout her many years of service, she always put her Mansfield Woodhouse community first. She was always proud of her role as a spokesperson for her community, a role at which she was extremely effective. She was involved in many community groups and initiatives in Mansfield Woodhouse and the wider area and was a very popular and well respected local councillor.
9. But as well as speaking up for her Division, Joyce was ambitious for the whole County. Nottinghamshire benefitted in many ways from the dedication and commitment of Joyce Bosnjak.
10. Joyce was an extremely effective Cabinet Member for Children's Services ensuring that Nottinghamshire children had access to the very best in education, social care and youth provision. She was a former Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board; putting into practice her former nursing experience to speak up for patients and hold health and social care providers to account. She was also a strong opposition spokesperson on the Adult Social Care and Health and Policy Committees, where she always asked pertinent questions, scrutinised proposals carefully and was not afraid to speak out against what she regarded as poor decision making, injustice and inequality.
11. Joyce has demonstrated strong political leadership in her role as Deputy Leader of the Council, and as Deputy Group Leader in opposition, for many years. As Deputy Leader of the County Council between 2013 and 2017, Joyce became one of the most high profile women Labour politicians in local government and she gained the respect of members and officers throughout the county and beyond.
12. She undertook the work with creativity and passion, always with a focus on the benefits her work, and that of the committees, could bring to Nottinghamshire residents. She was, and remains, a keen advocate for voluntary and community groups both in her Mansfield Division and more widely in the County, she understands very well the important role they can play in partnership with the Council, in delivering good, local services. Outside the County she has represented the County through the County Council Network, The Local Government Association and on East Midlands Councils.
13. Joyce Bosnjak gave many years of outstanding service to Nottinghamshire County Council and the people it serves, and she well deserves recognition as an Honorary Alderman.

Mrs Kathrine Cutts MBE

14. Kay has made a considerable contribution not only to Nottinghamshire County Council, but to political and community life in Nottinghamshire as a whole.
15. Kay has spent half a century representing local people, starting her political career in 1972 as a Parish Councillor for Normanton-on-the-Wolds, where she continues to serve as Chairman

to this day. Kay went on to be elected to Rushcliffe Borough Council in 1979, representing the Wolds ward, before joining Nottinghamshire County Council in 1989 as the councillor for Radcliffe-on-Trent – an area she would go on to represent until her retirement earlier this year.

16. At the time of her retirement, Kay was the longest continuously-serving member of the authority and the longest serving leader of the Conservative Group having been elected to that post in 2000 before securing the confidence of her peers for the twenty-one years that followed.
17. Throughout this time Kay sat on committees that covered the full breadth of the council's work whilst actively support her community, taking a particular interest in her parish councils and local voluntary groups. She was also especially passionate about protecting young people and encouraging them to succeed, demonstrated by her serving as a Governor at Radcliffe-on-Trent Junior School for more than three decades.
18. Following the 2009 local government elections, Kay was made Leader of the Council for the four-year term that followed and resumed this position again following the local elections in 2017.
19. In 2014, Kay was recognised by HM Queen Elizabeth II and made a Member of the British Empire for her services to local government. She accepted the award with her characteristic sense of duty and humility, reportedly going so far as to keep it a secret from her husband until officially announced and thinking better of telling her family on Christmas Day for fear that it would be 'too boastful'.
20. In her time as Leader of the Council, Kay became recognised across the region and country as a champion for Nottinghamshire and for the East Midlands as a whole. She became heavily involved in initiatives to boost the region's economic development prospects and played a pivotal role in organisations such as the Midlands Engine and East Midlands Councils, where she remains well-respected by colleagues across the whole of the Midlands and beyond.
21. More recently, Kay worked tirelessly throughout the COVID-19 pandemic to lead this authority through the most challenging of circumstances and ensured that the health of the people of Nottinghamshire was protected. Though this was not the only challenging period through which Kay led the authority, her political leadership in these unprecedented times provided much-needed stability and ensured that the wellbeing of the most vulnerable in our county – and especially those who were in the care of this authority – was protected.
22. In her personal life Kay is also a respected authority on Nottinghamshire's local history, having used her time as a councillor to promote our county's links to the Pilgrim Fathers, the English Civil War, and the importance of historical sites such as Rufford Abbey and Sherwood Forest for which the Council acts as custodians.
23. Kay has established a reputation amongst her political peers, council officers and the Nottinghamshire public for her determination, strong values, clear vision, insatiable work ethic, and an ability to motivate others. She would be an ideal choice to become an Honorary Alderman and will continue to act as a superb ambassador for the authority in this capacity.

Other Options Considered

24. None

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

25. The nominations have been received and full council is asked to consider the appointments.

Statutory and Policy Implications

26. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, data protection and information governance finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (public health services), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and adults at risk, service users, smarter working, sustainability and the environment and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

RECOMMENDATION/S

It is recommended that Joyce Bosnjak and Kathrine Cutts MBE be appointed as Honorary Aldermen.

Anthony May
Chief Executive

For any enquiries about this report please contact:

Sara Allmond, Advanced Democratic Services Officer
sara.allmond@nottsc.gov.uk

Constitutional Comments (CEH 02.09.2021)

27. This report and recommendation should be considered by Full Council.

Financial Comments (RWK 06/09/2021)

28. There are no specific financial implications arising directly from the report.

Background Papers and Published Documents

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

None

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All