

meeting COUNTY COUNCIL

date 19th May 2011

agenda item number **3**

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

HONORARY ALDERMEN

1. Purpose of the Report

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

2. Background

- 2.1 Under Section 249 of 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.

- 2.2 An Honorary Alderman may attend and take part in such civic ceremonies as the council may from time to time decide, but shall not have the right to attend meetings of the council or a committee of the council or to receive any allowances by virtue of that office.

- 2.3 The status of Honorary Alderman is intended to recognised 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.

- 2.4 It is intended that the position of Honorary Alderman will be awarded only to a very few former members whose overall contribution can universally be acknowledged as being exceptional.

- 2.5 Since 1974 the council has only appointed four Honorary Aldermen, Martin Brandon-Bravo OBE, Stewart Pattinson and Sir Dennis Pettitt,

3. Proposal

- 3.1 Following appropriate discussions, it is proposed that Council considers appointing Terry Butler and John Carter as Honorary Aldermen.

Terry Butler

- 3.2 Terry Butler was first elected as a member of the County Council in 1985 and served continually until 2005. Between 1989 and 1993 he was vice-chair of the Finance Committee. From 1993 to 2000 he was Chair of the Environment Committee and on the introduction of the cabinet system in 2000 he became Cabinet Member for Environment.
- 3.3 Terry was a passionate advocate of improving both highways and public transport to support regeneration while maintaining environmental sustainability. He was instrumental in obtaining investment for wide-scale community and business regeneration projects in former coalfield communities across the County and also oversaw the creation of the Building Better Communities programme (now LIS) which has benefited communities across the County.
- 3.4 His commitment to the political life of the Council is widely recognised as is his contribution to the Council's services and to the public and civic life of the County.

John Carter

- 3.5 John Carter served continuously on the County Council from 1989 to 2009. He was vice-chair of the Finance Committee from 1993 to 1997, Chair of the Finance Committee from 1997 to 2000 and then Cabinet Member for Finance and Property from 2000 to 2006.
- 3.6 During his tenure, John oversaw a complete reassessment of the County Council's financial structure which saw increased investment in resurgent property and financial markets, increasing income for the Council and also seeing record gains for the Pension fund. Under his stewardship, the County Council was able to increase its activity in working across the public, private and third sectors in order to promote business, infrastructure regeneration and support charities and voluntary organisations.
- 3.7 John Carter had an active role in the political leadership of the County Council for many years and has made significant contributions to the political life of the County.

4. **RECOMMENDED**

It is recommended that

- I. Consideration be given to appointing Terry Butler and John Carter as honorary aldermen

**Mick Burrows
Chief Executive**

Service Director (Finance) Comments (MA 10/05/2011)

There are no direct financial implications arising from this report

Legal Services Comments (SLB 10/05/2011)

County Council has authority to consider the content of this report.

Background Papers Available for Inspection

Nil

Electoral Divisions Affected

All