

**Extraordinary meeting of the
County Council
Wednesday 29 November 2017
1.00 pm or on the rise of the regular
Council Meeting
Council Chamber - Shire Hall, Taunton**



To: The Members of Somerset County Council

You are requested to attend the Meeting of Somerset County Council on Wednesday 29 November 2017 to transact the business set out in the agenda below.

Anyone requiring further information about the meeting, or wishing to inspect any of the background papers used in the preparation of the reports referred to in the agenda please contact Julia Jones on 01823 359027 or jjones@somerset.gov.uk

Issued By Julian Gale, Strategic Manager - Governance and Risk - 21 November 2017

Guidance about procedures at the meeting follows the printed agenda.

This meeting will be open to the public and press, subject to the passing of any resolution under Section 100A (4) of the Local Government Act 1972.

This agenda and the attached reports and background papers are available on request prior to the meeting in large print, Braille, audio tape & disc and can be translated into different languages. They can also be accessed via the council's website on www.somerset.gov.uk/agendasandpapers



RNID typetalk

Council Chamber and Hearing Aid Users

To assist hearing aid users, Shire Hall has infra-red audio transmission systems. To use this facility we need to provide a small personal receiver that will work with a hearing aid set to the T position. Please request a personal receiver from the Committee Administrator and return it at the end of the meeting

AGENDA

Item County Council - 1.00 pm Wednesday 29 November 2017

**** Public Guidance notes contained in agenda annexe ****

1 **Apologies for Absence**

2 **Declarations of Interest**

Details of Cabinet Member interests in District, Town and Parish Councils will be displayed in the meeting room. The Statutory Register of Member's Interests can be inspected via the Community Governance team.

3 **Public Question Time**

(see explanatory notes attached to agenda)

This item includes the presentation of petitions. Details of any public questions / petitions submitted will be included in the Chairman's Schedule which will be made available to the members and to the public at the meeting.

For Decision

4 **Exclusion of the Press and Public**

Possible exclusion of the press and public

PLEASE NOTE: Although the main report for this item not confidential, supporting appendices available to Members contain exempt information and are therefore marked confidential – not for publication. At any point if Members wish to discuss information within this appendix then the Council will be asked to agree the following resolution to exclude the press and public:

Exclusion of the Press and Public

To consider passing a resolution having been duly proposed and seconded under Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 to exclude the press and public from the meeting, on the basis that if they were present during the business to be transacted there would be a likelihood of disclosure of exempt information, within the meaning of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972:

Reason: Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).

5 **Requisitioned item - Appointment of Honorary Aldermen (Pages 5 - 6)**

To consider a proposal containing exempt information to appoint Honorary Aldermen – to be proposed by Cllr Fothergill and seconded by Cllr Jane Lock - together with a supporting report. The report containing exempt information has been provided to members only (on pink paper). The supporting report is attached for information.

SOMERSET COUNTY COUNCIL – FULL COUNCIL MEETINGS

GUIDANCE FOR PRESS AND PUBLIC

Recording of Meetings

The Council in support of the principles of openness and transparency allows filming, recording and taking photographs at its meetings that are open to the public providing it is done in a non-disruptive manner. Members of the public may use Facebook and Twitter or other forms of social media to report on proceedings and a designated area will be provided for anyone who wishes to film part or all of the proceedings. No filming or recording will take place when the press and public are excluded for that part of the meeting. As a matter of courtesy to the public, anyone wishing to film or record proceedings is asked to provide reasonable notice to Michael Bryant, Senior Community Governance Officer, County Hall, Taunton, Somerset, TA1 4DY 01823 359048 mbryant@somerset.gov.uk so that the Chairman of the meeting can inform those present.

We would ask that, as far as possible, members of the public aren't filmed unless they are playing an active role such as speaking within a meeting and there may be occasions when speaking members of the public request not to be filmed.

The Council will be undertaking audio recording of some of its meetings in Shire Hall as part of its investigation into a business case for the recording and potential webcasting of meetings in the future.

A copy of the Council's Recording of Meetings Protocol should be on display at the meeting for inspection, alternatively contact the Committee Administrator for the meeting in advance

Members' Code of Conduct Requirements

When considering the declaration of interests and their actions as a councillor, Members are reminded of the requirements of the Members' Code of Conduct and the underpinning Principles of Public Life: HONESTY; INTEGRITY; SELFLESSNESS; OBJECTIVITY; ACCOUNTABILITY; OPENNESS; LEADERSHIP. The Code of Conduct can be viewed at: <http://www.somerset.gov.uk/organisation/key-documents/the-councils-constitution/>

EXPLANATORY NOTES: QUESTIONS/STATEMENTS/PETITIONS BY THE PUBLIC

General

Members of the public may ask questions at ordinary meetings of the Council, or may make a statement or present a petition – **by giving advance notice**.

Notice of questions/statements/petitions

Prior submission of questions/statements/petitions is required in writing or by e-mail to the Monitoring Officer – Julian Gale (email: jjgale@somerset.gov.uk) by MIDDAY ON THE FRIDAY PRECEDING THE MEETING. The Monitoring Officer may edit any question or statement in consultation with the author, before it is circulated, to bring it into an appropriate form for the Council.

In exceptional circumstances the Chairman has discretion at meetings to accept questions/statements/ petitions without any prior notice.

Scope of questions/statements/petitions

Questions/statements/petitions must:

- (a) relate to a matter for which the County Council has a responsibility, or which affects the County;
- (b) not be defamatory, frivolous or offensive;
- (c) not be substantially the same as a question/statement/petition which has been put at a meeting of the Council in the past six months; and
- (d) not require the disclosure of confidential or exempt information.

The Monitoring Officer has discretion to reject any question that is not in accord with (a) to (d) above. The Monitoring Officer may also reject a statement or petition on similar grounds.

Record of questions/statement/petitions

Copies of all representations from the public received prior to the meeting will be circulated to all members and will be made available to the public attending the meeting in the Chairman's Schedule, which will be distributed at the meeting. Full copies of representations and answers given will be set out in the minutes of the meeting.

Response to Petitions

Normally the Council will refer any petition to an appropriate decision maker for response – see the Council's Petition Scheme for more details. The organiser will also be allowed 2 minutes at the meeting to introduce the petition, and will receive a response from a relevant member (normally a Cabinet member).

If a petition organiser is not satisfied with the council's response to the petition and the petition contains more than 5000 signatures (approximately 1% of Somerset's population) the petition organiser can request a debate at a meeting of the County Council itself. The Chairman will decide when that debate will take place.

Access and Attendance

The County Council meeting in Shire Hall is open to the public but there is limited capacity for health and safety reasons. The Council Chamber in Shire Hall is located on the first floor of the building. Shire Hall is used principally by the Courts Service and their staff are responsible for security arrangements at the main entrance. **All those attending the council meeting and the courts are required to pass through the security 'gate'. At peak times this can take well over ten minutes – so please arrive early.**

If numbers attending exceed capacity then priority will be given to those who have registered to speak at Public Question Time and thereafter admittance will be on a first come, first served basis.

The design of Shire Hall and the listed Council Chamber is not ideal for those using wheelchairs, with restricted widths in corridors and elsewhere, but council officers will ensure they have access to the meeting if at all possible.

Somerset County Council

County Council

– 29 November 2017

Appointment of Honorary Aldermen – Report of the Monitoring Officer

Lead Officer & Author: Julian Gale - Strategic Manager – Governance & Risk and Monitoring Officer

Contact Details: 01823 359047

1. Summary

- 1.1 This report is in support of the requisitioned item on the agenda for the Extraordinary Council meeting on 29th November 2017 proposing the appointment of Honorary Aldermen.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 This report provides background information on the policy agreed by Council in July 2017 on the appointment of Honorary Aldermen and Alderwomen and is to note.**

3. Background

- 3.1 Council is reminded that in July 2017 it agreed a policy providing for the appointment of Honorary Aldermen and Alderwomen by the Council. Such appointments are provided for by the Local Government Act 1972 [Section 249(1)]. They have to be confirmed, by a resolution at a 'special full council meeting convened specifically for the purpose, and passed by not less than two thirds of the members present and voting in favour'. The title can be awarded to '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.'
- 3.2 The appointment of Honorary Alderman/Alderwoman is an entirely honorary position, bringing no special rights, but is intended to reflect the esteem of the wider community. Each Council is encouraged to have its own criteria for these appointments as the legislation doesn't provide any definitions.
- 3.3 At the July meeting the Council agreed the following criteria and procedure for these appointments (as summarised):
- (a) The title can be conferred on any past elected member who has, in the opinion of the Council, rendered eminent service to the Council and the local community but who is no longer a serving councillor or is politically active.
 - (b) Nominations for Honorary Aldermen/Alderwomen must be made at a Special meeting of the Council convened for the purpose.
 - (c) Nominations may be received by the Chairman of the Council from any member of the Council with the support of their Group Leader and must be received in time to be brought before the Special Council meeting in

the form of a requisitioned item in accordance with the Council's procedural rules. The Leader of the Council shall move the requisitioned item which shall be seconded where possible by the leader of the main opposition group. The nomination to appoint an Honorary Alderman/Alderwoman shall be formally agreed if supported by not less than two thirds of the Members present.

(d) Nominees must have a minimum period of 12 years past service as a Councillor of the County Council.

(e) There shall be no more than twelve County Council Honorary Alderman/Alderwoman appointments at any one time.

3.4 Rights of Honorary Aldermen/Alderwomen

As a reminder these appointments have no 'legal or social precedence' but as a matter of custom and practice those appointed are invited to all appropriate Civic ceremonial events. Those elected to the Roll of Honorary Alderman/Alderwoman are entitled to use the title of 'Honorary Alderman/Honorary Alderwoman of the County of Somerset. Those appointed have no right to receive any allowances or payments.

3.5 Following the July Council meeting discussions with the group leaders resulted in names being put forward for appointment as set out in the requisitioned item. The requisitioned item has been withheld from publication as it contains exempt information in the form of the names of the individuals proposed.

3.6 If the Council confirms the above appointments today then the appointees will be invited to a presentation ceremony to be at the start of the 21st February 2018 Full Council meeting. Those awarded the title will be presented with: 1) A 'Certificate of Conferral of the Status of Honorary Alderman/Alderwoman' 2) A Badge of Office presented in an official presentation box. Following the presentation, those appointed will be asked to sign the 'Roll of Honorary Aldermen/Alderwomen'.

4. **Implications**

4.1 **Legal & Risk:**

Appointment of Honorary Aldermen/Alderwomen: None

4.2 **Equalities, sustainability and community safety implications:**

There are no direct equalities implications arising from any of the proposals in this report. There are also no sustainability or community safety implications.

4.3 **Financial Implications:**

Appointment of Honorary Aldermen/Alderwomen:

The direct costs are estimated to be in the region of £1000 - £2000. It is expected that these costs can be contained within the existing members' budget.

5. **Background papers**

5.1 None