

Joint Report of the Presiding Member, Monitoring Officer and Head of Democratic Services

Ceremonial Council – 28 July 2016

CONFERRING TITLE OF HONORARY ALDERMAN PURSUENT TO SECTION 249 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

Purpose:	To confer the title of “Honorary Alderman” on former Councillor Byron G Owen.
Policy Framework:	None.
Reason for Decision:	To comply with the Criteria for the conferring the title of “Honorary Alderman / Alderwoman” (Minute 105 of Council on 18 October 2012).
Consultation:	Political Group Leaders, Finance and Legal.
Recommendation(s):	It is recommended that: 1) The title of Honorary Alderman be conferred on former Councillor Byron G Owen in recognition of his eminent service rendered to the City and County of Swansea and its predecessor Authority’s.
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Finance Officer:	Carl Billingsley
Legal Officer:	Lucy Moore
Access to Services Officer:	Sherrill Hopkins

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972 states that “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 Alderman on 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.
- 1.2 Council at its meeting on 18 October 2012 (Minute 105 refers) adopted an amended Criteria for the conferring the title of “Honorary Alderman / Honorary Alderwoman”.

- 1.3 The criteria for the conferring the title of “Honorary Alderman / Honorary Alderwoman is outlined below:

“Council shall grant an Honorary Alderman / Honorary Alderwoman Status to:

- a) *Those former Councillors who have served within the boundaries of the City and County of Swansea providing that they:*
 - i) *Do not intend returning or have failed to be re-elected as Councillors within the City and County of Swansea **and that;***
 - ii) *They have held the position of Lord Mayor of the City and County of Swansea or Lord Mayor / Mayor / Chair of the Council or any of the predecessor Authorities of the City and County of Swansea.*
- b) *Any individual that the Council deems appropriate.”*

- 1.4 The Certificate presented to each Honorary Alderman / Alderwoman is produced bilingually. One side is Welsh and the other side is English. An example is outlined as **Appendix A**.

2. Honorary Alderman / Honorary Alderwoman

- 2.1 The title is derived from the Old English title of “Ealdorman”, literally meaning “Elder Man”, and was used by the Chief Nobles presiding over Shires. The position of Honorary Alderman / Honorary Alderwoman is non political.
- 2.2 The title is used within the City and County of Swansea as a reward for individuals who have given long and eminent services to the Council providing the criteria has been met.
- 2.3 Honorary Aldermen / Honorary Alderwomen are often invited to attend Civic Ceremonies as the Council may from time to time decide, but shall not, as such, have the right to influence meetings of the Council or a Committee of the Council or to receive any allowance or other payment under the Councillors Allowances Scheme.
- 2.4 They are invited to Civic events and other events where the Honorary Aldermen’s / Honorary Alderwomen’s personal knowledge and interests would add value to the occasion. Examples of such events could include the Inauguration of the Lord Mayor, Civic Service, Christmas Carol Service, Celebratory and Commemorative Events, Regimental Events and Parades, Remembrance Day Service and Parade, Royal Visits, Lord Mayor’s Appeal Events and Freedom Ceremonies.

3. **Eminent Service of Former Councillor Byron G Owen**

- 3.1 Following a period of ill health, former Councillor Byron G Owen resigned as a Councillor on 18 March 2016.
- 3.2 He served the Mynyddbach and Penderry communities and was Lord Mayor of the City of Swansea for the 1991-1992 Municipal Year.
- 3.3 His periods of service are shown below.

Swansea City Council	10 May 1973 to 5 May 1976
Swansea City Council	3 May 1979 to 31 March 1996
City & County of Swansea	4 May 1995 and 10 June 2004
City & County of Swansea	1 May 2008 to 18 March 2016

- 3.4 These periods amount to a collective total of nearly 36 years service representing the areas where he served.

4. **Financial Implications**

- 4.1 There are no direct costs with conferring such titles other than ceremonial costs which will need to be contained within existing budgets.

5. **Legal Implications**

- 5.1 The proposals are in accordance with the relevant legislation.

6. **Equality and Engagement Implications**

- 6.1 There are no equality implications associated with this report.

Background Papers:

None

Appendices:

Appendix A Honorary Alderman / Alderwoman Certificate

Honorary Alderman / Alderwoman Certificate



*RESOLVED that the Council of
the City and County of Swansea
confer the title of*

Honorary Alderman

on

Byron Owen

*a past member of the Council of the
City and County of Swansea for eminent services
rendered to the Council.*

Dated: 28 July 2016

*Phil Roberts
Chief Executive*



*PENDERFYNWYD y dylai
Cyngor Dinas a Sir Abertawe
ro'i'r teitl yr*

Henadur Anrhydeddus

í

Byron Owen

*am wasanaethau eithriadol
a wnaed i'r Cyngor fel cyn-aelod o
Gyngor Dinas a Sir Abertawe.*

Dyddiad: 28 Gorfennaf 2016

*Phil Roberts
Prif Weithredwr*