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03 October 2017

Dear Councillor

I am now able to enclose, for consideration at the meeting of the **GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE** on Monday 9 October 2017 at 12.30 pm, the following reports that were unavailable when the agenda was printed.

5 **HONORARY ALDERMAN NOMINATIONS** (Pages 2 - 10)

To consider the attached report of the Director of Governance in respect of the nominations of the following former district councillors for the position of Honorary Alderman:

Paul Watkins

Nominated by: Councillor P Walker Seconded by: Councillor K E Morris

Jim Hood

Nominated by: Councillor P Walker Seconded by: Councillor K E Morris

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nicky", written over a white background.

Chief Executive

Subject:	NOMINATIONS FOR HONORARY ALDERMAN AWARD
Meeting and Date:	GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE – 9 OCTOBER 2017
Report of:	DIRECTOR OF GOVERNANCE
Classification:	UNRESTRICTED

Purpose of the report: To consider nominations received for the award of the courtesy title of Honorary Alderman or Alderwoman in accordance with the provisions of Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972.

Recommendation: That the General Purposes Committee determine whether to recommend to Council that one or more of the nominee(s) be conferred the title of Honorary Alderman in recognition of their 'eminent service' to Dover District Council.

1. Summary

The Council approved a Scheme of Enrolment for Honorary Aldermen and Alderwomen at its meeting held on 25 January 2017, which incorporated the provisions of Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972. This report sets out the first set of nominations for Honorary Aldermen.

2. Introduction and Background

2.1 Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972 permits a local authority to confer the title of Honorary Alderman (or Alderwoman) upon 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".

2.2 The Scheme of Enrolment set out in Appendix 1 of this report sets out the process for awarding the courtesy title of Honorary Alderman or Alderwoman and the rights and privileges it confers.

Nomination Criteria

2.3 To be considered for conferment of the title of Honorary Alderman or Alderwoman, the nominee must have rendered:

- (a) A total of 20 years' service as a Member of Dover District Council which is calculated on a cumulative basis. In exceptional circumstances less than 20 years' service may be considered; and
- (b) 'Eminent services' to the council as past members of that council.

2.4 It is for the Council to determine who in its judgement has rendered 'eminent services'. The legislation does not define the term in any further detail and it is for members to determine what may qualify as 'eminent service'.

Nominations

2.5 Councillor P Walker, seconded by Councillor K E Morris, has proposed that the following former district councillors be considered for the award of the title of Honorary Alderman:

Nominated Honorary Alderman: **Paul Watkins**

Mr Watkins served as a member of Dover District Council for Lower Walmer Ward (1983 – 1995) and St Margaret’s-at-Cliffe Ward (1999 – 2017). In total he was a district councillor for 30 years of non-continuous service. He was Chairman of the Council three times (1989 – 1992) and Leader of the Council under the Executive Model (2003 – 2017).

Nominated Honorary Alderman: **George (‘Jim’) Hood**

Mr Hood served as a member of Dover District Council for Town and Pier Ward from 1976 – 2015. In total he was a district councillor for 39 years of continuous service and still remains the Council’s longest serving member. He was the Cabinet Member for Transport, Opportunity and Access from 2000-02, Cabinet Member for Opportunity from 2002-03 and a member of the Shadow Cabinet from 2003-4 and 2007 – 2011.

3. Identification of Options

- 3.1 The two nominations that have been received meet the criteria as set out in the Scheme of Enrolment (a copy of this is attached in Appendix 1). A copy of the nomination papers can be found in Appendix 2 (Paul Watkins) and Appendix 3 (Jim Hood).
- 3.2 It is for the General Purposes Committee to consider the nominations and determine whether they should be recommended to the full Council where the title of Honorary Alderman (or Alderwoman) can only be conferred by a “resolution of not less than two-thirds of the members voting thereon at a meeting of the [full] council specifically convened for the purpose”.
- 3.3 If the General Purposes Committee decides to recommend one or more of the nominees for Honorary Alderman, the nomination(s) will be considered at the meeting of the Council to be held on 18 October 2017. The award of Honorary Alderman itself will be made at a Council meeting to be held at a future date and not at the meeting at which the decision is taken to confer the award.

4. Evaluation of Options

- 4.1 Option 1: To recommend to Council that one or more of the nominees are considered for the award of the title of Honorary Alderman.
- 4.2 Option 2: To not recommend any of the nominees for the award of the title of Honorary Alderman.
- 4.3 It is worth noting that the legislation makes provision that any former Member who is conferred the status of Honorary Alderman (or Alderwoman) and who is subsequently re-elected to the Council shall have their status as Alderman (or Alderwoman) placed in abeyance for the time that they hold office and may not be referred to as Alderman (or Alderwoman) or exercise any of the associated privileges.

5. Resource Implications

- 5.1 Section 249(4A) of the Local Government Act 1972 permits a principal council, in this case Dover District Council, to ‘spend such reasonable sum as they think fit for the purpose of presenting an address, or a casket containing an address, to a person on whom they have conferred the title of Honorary Alderman or Honorary Alderwoman’.
- 5.2 As it is for Members to determine who in their opinion is suitable to be have the title of Honorary Alderman or Honorary Alderwoman it is difficult to quantify the number of awards to be given in any given year. However, it is not expected that the cost will be significant.

6. **Appendices**

Appendix 1 – Scheme of Enrolment

Appendix 2 – Nomination for Paul Watkins

Appendix 3 – Nomination for Jim Hood

7. **Background Papers**

None

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SCHEME OF ENROLMENT FOR HONORARY ALDERMEN AND ALDERWOMEN OF DOVER DISTRICT COUNCIL

Qualifications Required for Enrolment

- 1.1 A former elected member of Dover District Council shall be eligible for consideration to be nominated to the position of Honorary Alderman or Alderwoman in accordance with the provisions of Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972 if he or she has rendered:
- (i) A total of 20 years' service as a Member of Dover District Council which is calculated on a cumulative basis. In exceptional circumstances less than 20 years' service may be considered; and
 - (ii) 'Eminent services' to the council as past members of that council.
- 1.2 This will generally be in the form of, but not limited to, service as the Chairman of the Council, Leader of the Council, Leader of a Political Group, Chairman of a major Council Committee or by holding one or more senior positions on the council.

Method of Enrolment

- 2.1 Applications for nomination as an Honorary Alderman or Alderwoman shall be made by 2 serving Members of the Council and submitted in writing to the Director of Governance on the approved form. The Director of Governance will then submit a report
- 2.2 Prior to the submission of any application for nomination the person nominated shall be asked by the Members nominating him or her if he or she is willing to accept nomination for enrolment as an Honorary Alderman or Alderwoman and he or she shall have indicated a willingness to accept the nomination.
- 2.3 The Director of Governance will screen the nominations for eligibility (as per the qualification provisions of this scheme) and submit a report with all qualifying nominations to the General Purposes Committee for consideration and, if it so decides, onwards recommendation to a meeting of the full Council.
- 2.4 Election to the position of Honorary Alderman or Alderwoman shall be by a resolution of the Council by not less than two-thirds of the Members voting thereon at a meeting of the Council specially convened for that purpose with notice of the object.
- 2.5 Following the election of a person to the position of Honorary Alderman or Alderwoman, the Director of Governance will arrange:
- (i) For the name of the person to be admitted to the Roll of Honorary Aldermen and Alderwomen, which shall be established for such purpose.

- (ii) For the title of Honorary Alderman or Alderwoman to be conferred on the persons nominated at a meeting of the Council together with the presentation of a scroll.

Rights and Privileges

3.1 Subject to 3.2, an Honorary Alderman shall be entitled to the following rights and privileges:

- (i) To enjoy the courtesy title of “Honorary Alderman” or “Honorary Alderwoman” and to be addressed as such.
- (ii) To attend as an observer at meetings of the Council or any other meetings to which the press and public are admitted and to have a seat reserved for this purpose.
- (iii) To receive invitations to all civic events to which Members of the Council are invited.
- (iv) To walk in any civic processions in a position immediately senior to serving Members.
- (v) To receive a copy of the Council’s Year Book on request.
- (vi) On death, to have the Civic flag flown at the Council Offices, Whitfield at half-mast.

3.2 The Council may decide to alter, amend, supplement or withdraw the rights and privileges set out in 3.1 above either generally or, in the case of an individual Honorary Alderman or Alderwoman.



3.3 In the event of an Honorary Alderman or Alderwoman resuming membership of the Council, he or she shall cease to be entitled to be addressed as Honorary Alderman or Honorary Alderwoman or to attend or take part in any civic ceremonies of the Council as an Honorary Alderman or Honorary Alderwoman.



DOVER DISTRICT COUNCIL

Honorary Alderman or Alderwoman Nomination Form

Please provide the following details about the former councillor that you wish to nominate for Honorary Alderman or Honorary Alderwoman.

Name of Nominee:	Paul A Watkins
Address of Nominee:	
Telephone Number of Nominee: (if known)	
Email Address of Nominee: (if known)	

Does the nominee agree for their name to be put forward for consideration?

YES

NO

The Scheme of Enrolment sets out the eligibility criteria and you should ensure that you have read it before nominating a former member of the Council for consideration.

Name of Nominating Councillor

Peter Walker

Signature of Nominating Councillor



Date

27th September 2017

Name of Seconding Councillor

Keith Morris

Signature of Seconding Councillor



Date

27th September 2017

Please detail what 'eminent service' the nominee has rendered to the Dover District. Please give specific details and you may continue on a separate sheet if necessary.

Just to serve 30 years as a Councillor in the Dover District is sufficient evidence of the devotion to serving the public but to have also completed three years as Chairman and fourteen years as Leader of the Council indicates acceptance of his qualities as being of high standard. He has maintained his stance on many issues within the Council chamber and often with stiff opposition but he has always, and with great discretion, been ready with kindness and support for all within the Council.

Paul is a man of robust opinion who tackles every issue with equal care and attention. He is happy to listen to all opinions before making a decision, and every decision he made was based upon his desire to do his best for everyone in the District.

Within Kent but outside of this District he has represented us with aplomb and been received with great respect by those, for example, within SEEDA, KCC, HM Government or other Council Leaders.

He has given absolute and exceptional service and as such is deserving of being made Honorary Alderman.



DOVER DISTRICT COUNCIL

Honorary Alderman or Alderwoman Nomination Form

Please provide the following details about the former councillor that you wish to nominate for Honorary Alderman or Honorary Alderwoman.

Name of Nominee:	George J (Jim) Hood
Address of Nominee:	[REDACTED]
Telephone Number of Nominee: (if known)	[REDACTED]
Email Address of Nominee: (if known)	

Does the nominee agree for their name to be put forward for consideration?

YES

NO

The Scheme of Enrolment sets out the eligibility criteria and you should ensure that you have read it before nominating a former member of the Council for consideration.

Name of Nominating Councillor

Peter Walker

Signature of Nominating Councillor

[REDACTED SIGNATURE]

Date

27th September 2017

Name of Seconding Councillor

Keith Morris

Signature of Seconding Councillor

[REDACTED SIGNATURE]

Please detail what 'eminent service' the nominee has rendered to the Dover District. Please give specific details and you may continue on a separate sheet if necessary.

Jim Hood is best seen as a shining example of honesty and integrity. In his 39 years as an elected Councillor he has served on at least 34 different committees, working parties, cabinets or shadow cabinets etc. Some of those positions have been as Chair, indeed his last one was as Chair of Scrutiny (Community & Regeneration).

Any Councillor that has seen Jim in action, listened to him in debate, had a private conversation, raised a problem with him , or just plain argued with him has witnessed a great talent at using vast experience to get over his point. If he was ever riled it rarely showed, if he did not agree he did not keep quiet but did make his point effectively, if he was ever wrong he was quick to apologise. Jim has a humble nature, always offered support, especially to new Councillors, gave respect where respect was due and never ever sought platitudes for himself.

If one had to seek out a model for a District Councillor it would be difficult to consider anyone other than Jim. His 39 years as a District Councillor have been an example to us all, whether we achieve the higher echelons or not and for that alone he is deserving of being made Honorary Alderman.