
Subject: POLICY FOR LONG SERVICE AWARDS TO ELECTED MEMBERS OF DOVER DISTRICT COUNCIL

Meeting and Date: Council – 22 July 2015

Report of: Director of Governance

Classification: UNRESTRICTED

Purpose of the report: To regularise the position in respect of recognising long service by Elected Members of Dover District Council.

Recommendation:

- (a) That the Council adopt a Policy for Long Service Awards to Elected Members of Dover District Council as set out in Appendix 1.
- (b) That the Council record their appreciation of the Long Service of the Elected Members named at paragraph 2.7 of this report and request the Head of Democratic Services to make the necessary arrangements for Long Service Awards to be presented to the Members named at paragraph 2.7 at the meeting of the Council to be held on 30 September 2015.

1. Summary

This report seeks to establish a policy to regularise the position in respect of long service awards for Elected Members of the Council.

2. Introduction and Background

2.1 Across England many local authorities provide for awards recognising the long or exceptional service by councillors. This takes a number of forms including the awarding of honorary alderman status but a common factor is often a requirement for the individual being honoured to have completed a minimum duration in office.

2.2 Dover District Council made no provision for long service awards until this year when an award was made to three retiring Members of the Council at the meeting held on 4 March 2015.

2.3 The awards presented at the 4 March 2015 meeting were presented to three retiring members of the Council, each with a minimum of 20 years of service on the Council and a combined service of 89 years. All three Members in question were current or former Cabinet Members and one was the then Chairman of the Council.

Name	First Elected	Service
Cllr G J Hood	1976	39 Years of Continuous Service
Cllr S R Nicholas	1987	27 Years of Non-Continuous Service
Cllr C J Smith	1987	23 Years of Non-Continuous Service

- 2.4 The award took the form of a plaque of the Council's Civic Crest with an engraving stating the Members' name and the reason for the award. The plaques were taken from the Council's existing civic stock and the mounting work undertaken by a local company.
- 2.5 At the time of the awards the Director of Governance gave an undertaking that a policy would be brought forward after the election to regularise the position with a view that, if adopted, a further round of long service awards would be presented at the meeting of the Council scheduled for 30 September 2015.

Long Service Policy

- 2.6 It is proposed that a Long Service Policy be introduced to present an award to Members on having reached 20 years of service as an Elected Member of Dover District Council. The award itself is intended to be ceremonial in nature and of a minimal financial cost to the Council.
- 2.7 The following Members would be eligible for receiving the Long Service Award currently (representing a combined 136 years of service):

Name	First Elected	Service (As at May 2015)
Cllr T J Bartlett	4 May 1995	20 Years of Continuous Service
Cllr B W Butcher	4 May 1995	20 Years of Continuous Service
Cllr P G Heath	2 May 1991	24 Years of Continuous Service
Cllr K Mills	2 May 1991	24 Years of Continuous Service
Cllr F J W Scales	4 May 1995	20 Years of Continuous Service
Cllr P A Watkins	5 May 1983	28 Years of Non-Continuous Service

- 2.8 In addition, one further Member (Councillor A S Pollitt) would reach 20 Years of Non-Continuous Service at the next ordinary elections of the Council (May 2019) and a second Member (Councillor N J Collor) would reach 20 Years of Continuous Service by May 2020.
- 2.9 Further awards would be made upon an Elected Member meeting the qualifying criteria.

3. Identification of Options

- 3.1 Option 1: To approve the Policy for Long Service Awards to Elected Members of Dover District Council.
- 3.2 Option 2: To not approve the Policy for Long Service Awards to Elected Members of Dover District Council.

4. Evaluation of Options

- 4.1 Option 1 is the recommended option as it regularises the position of Long Service Awards to Elected members of Dover District Council.

4.2 Option 2 is not recommended as it does not establish a framework for regularising recognition for long service by district councillors.

5. **Resource Implications**

The cost of the six long service awards would be met from within the existing civic budget.

6. **Corporate Implications**

Not Applicable.

7. **Appendices**

Appendix 1 – Policy for Long Service Awards to Elected Members of Dover District Council

Appendix 2 – Length of Service of Current District Councillors

8. **Background Papers**

None.

Contact Officer: Rebecca Brough, Team Leader – Democratic Support 01304 872304