

## **This is an open report**

**Report to:** Honorary Aldermen Nominations Committee

**Date of Meeting(s):** Thursday, 25 July 2024  
Wednesday, 25 September 2024

**Subject:** Appointment of Honorary Alderman

**Report of:** Assistant Director – Legal, Governance and Elections (Monitoring Officer)

**Contact Officer:** 01942 927121

**Cabinet Portfolio Holder and area:** Councillor C Ready, Portfolio Holder for Communities and Neighbourhoods

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### **Summary:**

A nomination has been received for the Committee to consider the appointment of former councillor, John David O'Brien, for the position of Honorary Alderman of this Borough.

### **Link to Corporate Priorities:**

Our Place: Together we are proud of our towns and look after our environment:

- An environment to be proud of
- Embracing Culture, Sport and Heritage

**Wards Affected:** None

### **Recommendation(s):**

- (1) Based on the existing criteria, the Honorary Alderman Nominations Committee is requested to recommend to the Council, the position in relation to former councillor John David O'Brien, outlined within the report.
- (2) The Council is recommended to appoint the former member of the Council as recommended by the Honorary Alderman Nominations Committee.
- (3) Should the appointment be made, the Council is also recommended:-
  - to agree to hold a special meeting of the Council on 4 November 2024 at 2pm and
  - to approve the provision of appropriate refreshments in the Mayor's Parlour for the Honorary Alderman and invited guests to be hosted by The Mayor.

**Implications:**

**What are the financial implications?**

N/A

**Is budget release necessary (Capital Expenditure Only)?**

N/A

**What are the legal implications?**

N/A

**What are the staffing implications?**

N/A

**Equality and Diversity Impact Assessment attached or not required because (please give reason). If not required, then a relevance check needs to be completed.**

An equality and diversity impact assessment is not necessary see relevance check attached to the report.

**What are the property implications in terms of reduction, addition or change to the council's asset base or its occupation?**

None

**What are the Corporate Parenting Implications?**

N/A

**Risks:**

There are no risks identified

**Sustainability/Environmental implications:**

N/A

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Has the relevant Legal Officer confirmed that the recommendations within this report are lawful and comply with the Council's Constitution?

Yes

Has the relevant Finance Officer confirmed that any expenditure referred to within this report is consistent with the Council's budget?

Yes

Are any of the recommendations within this report contrary to the Policy Framework of the Council?

No

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**What are the alternative option(s) to be considered? Please give the reason(s) for recommendation(s):**

Not to appoint the nomination within the report.

**There are no background papers for this report.**

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<b>Directorate Sign-off:</b>	Janet Davies
<b>Date:</b>	09 July 2024

Please list any appendices:

<b>Appendix number or letter</b>	<b>Description</b>

## Background:

### 1 Existing Criteria

The Council at minute 23(b) (September 2012) approved the following criteria for the appointment of Honorary Aldermen.

(a) The person being considered no longer holds the position of Councillor. (If re-elected the holder must forfeit the title of Honorary Alderman for his/her period of office).

(b) The person must have served as a Councillor of the Metropolitan Borough of Wigan for an overall minimum period of 20 years.

(c) The person must have made a \*significant contribution to the Council and the people it represents.

\*Significant Contribution – A significant contribution must have been made in at least two of the following areas for an accumulated period of not less than ten years.

i Chair of Key Committee (Prior to Local Government Act 2000) or a Cabinet Member.

ii Mayor/Deputy Mayor.

iii Leading role on Council Panels/Committees e.g. Overview and Scrutiny, Best Value, Audit/Governance and Improvement Review.

iv Greater Manchester Districts' bodies – Greater Manchester Police Authority; Greater Manchester Fire Authority; Greater Manchester Passenger Transport Authority; Greater Manchester Waste Disposal Authority; Manchester Airport.

v Regional/National bodies e.g. North West Regional Assembly, Local Government Association.

vi Appointments to NHS bodies e.g. Acute Trust, Primary Care Trust, Patient and Public Involvement Forum.

vii Voluntary and community organisations e.g. CAB; CVS; DIAS; Wigan and Chorley Groundwork Trust.

viii Leading figure as Ward Councillor in the local community/township by virtue of posts held e.g. township forum, school governor; member of local charities; community forum; township community safety group.

(d) that a time limit of 12 months for acceptance of the position of Honorary Alderman is introduced and that if an appointment was not accepted within that timeframe, then the appointment be rescinded.

**2 To consider the appointment of the former councillor, John David O'Brien for the position of Honorary Alderman of this Borough based on the criteria listed below.**

**(1) John David O'Brien**, meets the criteria on the following grounds:

- He is an ex councillor;
- He has served on the council for over twenty years; and
- He has made a considerable contribution to the council and the people it represents in the following areas:
  - Mayor
  - Deputy Mayor
  - Chairman of Overview and scrutiny Select Committee no 4
  - Chairman of Economy, Environment, Culture and Housing Scrutiny Committee
  - Chairman of Confident Places Scrutiny Committee
  - Chairman of the Greater Manchester Joint Health Scrutiny Committee for 21 years
  - Representative on Bolton and District Post Office and Telecommunications Advisory Committees
  - Representative on North West of England and Isle of Man Reserve Forces and Cadet Association
  - Representative on SRB 3 / 4 'Investing in Opportunities' 2003 – 2004
  - Representative on Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Authority
  - Representative on the Fire Committee
  - Representative on Fred Bradshaw Memorial Prize Fund
  - Representative on J.D. Speakman Prize Fund
  - Representative on William Collier Prize Fund
  - Representative on Leigh Sport Partnership
  - Representative on Leigh Town Centre Management Group
  - Representative on Yorkshire Purchasing Organisation
  - Representative on North West Strategic Scrutiny Network and Member Development Network
  - Representative on AGMA
    - Council for the Association
    - NHS Scrutiny Body
    - Scrutiny Pool
    - Greater Manchester Health Scrutiny Panel
- Former Councillor O'Brien was also a member of UNIFY Credit Union, Treasurer of LEIGH CLP for many years and through his role on the Local Government Committee he chaired many candidate selection meetings both within the Borough and beyond, He volunteered for many appeal panels and was the leading Director at Leigh South Community Centre for many years.

### **3 Proposals:**

To consider the appointment of the former member of the council as an Honorary Alderman of this Borough

**Relevance Check**

**Budget Reduction/Service Area: Legal, Resources Directorate**

**Service Lead: Janet Davies**

**Date: 09 July 2024**

**In what ways does this Budget reduction have an impact on an outward facing service? How will the service feel different to your customers or potential customers?**

N/A

**If not, how does it impact on staff e.g. redundancies, pay grades, working conditions? Why are you confident that these staff changes will not affect the service you provide?**

N/A

Is a Customer Impact Assessment needed? No