

SPECIAL COUNCIL	AGENDA ITEM No.3(a)
28 July 2021	PUBLIC REPORT

HONORARY ALDERMAN AWARD – Chris Ash

RECOMMENDATIONS	
FROM: <i>Councillor Peter Hiller, Chairman of the Honours Panel</i>	Deadline date: <i>N/A</i>
<p>It is recommended that Council:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Awards the status of Honorary Alderman to the former Member of Council Chris Ash. 2. Awards badge of office to the former Member awarded the status of Honorary Alderman at a formal ceremony on a date to be agreed. 	

1. PURPOSE AND REASON FOR REPORT

- 1.1 To recommend to Council that the status of Honorary Alderman be awarded to the former councillor listed in the recommendation above.

2. BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES

- 2.1 Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972 as amended, empowers the Council, by resolution passed by not less than two thirds of the members voting at a meeting specially convened for the purpose, to confer the title of Honorary Alderman on a person who has, in the Council’s opinion, rendered eminent services to the Council as a past member.
- 2.2 This recommendation is made by the Director of Law and Governance based on recommendations determined by the Honours Panel. The Honours Panel is chaired by the Councillor Hiller. This is an informal group, and although its decisions have no formal status, it has agreed that these recommendations should be put forward taking into account the following criteria:
 - 2.2.1 A former councillor who has been re-elected for at least 3 terms and has served a minimum of 11 years’ service;
 - 2.2.2 Who has rendered eminent services to the council as a past member, taking into account membership of committees and external organisations, whether or not the former councillor served as Mayor, and whether he or she achieved anything worthy of particular note.
- 2.3 Council have previously resolved that the above criteria be accepted, and that councillors who served before the Council became a unitary authority should be included.
- 2.4 The Honours Panel considered that the former councillor listed in the recommendation met these criteria, and therefore recommend to Council that they should be awarded the status of Honorary Alderman. The recommendations are made on the following basis:
 - 2.4.1 Chris Ash served as a councillor for Dogsthorpe ward from May 1986 until May 1994 and then again from May 2000 until May 2021. During his terms of office, he served on many committees including Corporate Parenting, Licensing and Planning Review. He was Deputy Mayor in 2017-2018 and was Mayor of Peterborough 2018-2019.

2.5 Honorary Aldermen may attend and take part in such civic ceremonies as the Council may from time to time decide. They have no other formal role. Honorary Aldermen are not entitled to receive any members' allowances or other payments of allowances, expenses, etc.

2.6 Whilst a person who is a serving councillor cannot be made an Honorary Alderman, a person awarded this status may subsequently be re-elected as a councillor, but shall not then be addressed as Alderman or entitled to take part in any civic ceremonies as an Alderman.

3. IMPLICATIONS

3.1 The legal implications are set out in the body of the report. There will be modest financial implications, which will be met from within the existing civic budget, for the provision of a suitable badge of office, and the cost of a ceremony.

4. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Used to prepare this report, in accordance with the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

4.1 None.