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| REPORT TO: | COUNCIL 8 OCTOBER 2018 |
| SUBJECT: | CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGES – HONORARY ALDERMEN & ALDERWOMEN AND ANNUAL REPORT OF THE YOUNG MAYOR |
| LEAD OFFICER: | Jacqueline Harris Baker Director of Law and Governance |
| WARDS: | All |
| CORPORATE PRIORITY/POLICY CONTEXT/AMBITIOUS FOR CROYDON: | |
| The Council’s Constitution sets out the criteria for entry onto the roll of honorary Aldermen and Alderwomen. Regular review allows Members to ensure that the criteria remains relevant and equitable. | |
| FINANCIAL IMPACT: | |
| There are no financial implications arising directly from the proposals in this report. | |

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| 1. RECOMMENDATIONS |
| 1.1 That paragraph 6.1 of Part 4A of the Constitution be amended to read as follows: |
| <p>Honorary Aldermen and Alderwomen Former Members of the London Borough of Croydon, nominated by the Leader of a political group represented on the Council, who have either:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) rendered eminent service in their capacity as Member, considering the contribution that they have made to the borough, including roles served and how their service rendered is above and beyond that expected of all Members; or (ii) served a period of twelve years on the Council |
| 1.2 That Part 4A of the Constitution be amended to include: |
| <p>3.49(i) The outgoing Young Mayor, elected annually, will be permitted to present their annual report to an ordinary meeting of the Council in October of each year or as close to the end of the Young Mayor’s annual term as possible. Following the presentation of the annual report, the report will be open to questions from Members.</p> <p>3.49(ii) The overall time available for this item will be ten minutes.</p> |

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| <p>1.3 That a Special Meeting of the Council be held on 3 December 2018 for the purposes of considering recommendations from the Mayor and Honorary Freedom Selection Sub-Committee.</p> |
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2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 2.1 This report proposes two amendments to the Constitution. The first recommends amending the criteria for entry onto the Roll of Honorary Aldermen and Alderwomen, moving away from a predominantly 'time served' basis for qualification to criteria that allow a broader consideration of the contribution former Members have made to the Borough.
- 2.2 The second Constitutional amendment is to introduce provision for outgoing Young Mayor's to present an annual report to an ordinary meeting of the Council coinciding with the end of their annual term.
- 2.3 Members are also asked to agree to convene a Special Meeting of Council on 3 December 2018 to consider any recommendations from the Mayoralty and Honorary Freedom Selection Sub-Committee.

3. HONORARY ALDERMEN AND ALDERWOMEN

- 3.1 Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended) permits Local Authorities, where a two-thirds majority is in support, to confer the title of honorary alderman or honorary alderwoman on persons who have, in the opinion of the council, rendered eminent services to the council as past members of the council.
- 3.2 The London Borough of Croydon has a rich tradition of conferring this title following elections and aldermen and alderwomen are an important part of civic life in the Borough. Croydon first created its Roll of Honorary Aldermen in May 1965, and over fifty former Councillors have been granted this civic award.
- 3.3 Following the 2018 local elections, there is an opportunity for the Council to review the qualifying criteria for entry onto the roll of honorary aldermen and alderwomen before the next round of awards is made.

Qualifying Criteria

- 3.4 The original qualifying criteria for entry onto the roll stood in place for over thirty years and required 15 years' service along with a commitment that anyone receiving the award would forego the opportunity to stand for re-election.
- 3.5 The scheme was first reviewed in 1999, where the term 'alderwomen' was introduced, removing the previous gender bias terminology. The criteria were changed to formally recognise eminent service and to grant automatic qualification to any retiring Member that had completed eight years' service.

- 3.6 The criteria were further amended for the 2006 election year. These changes required both eminent service and 10 years' service, with automatic qualification rights removed.
- 3.7 The scheme was most recently reviewed in January 2010. Paragraph six of Part 4A of the Council's Constitution sets out these current qualifying criteria for aldermen and alderwomen. These are:
- Former Members of the London Borough of Croydon who have rendered eminent service in their capacity as Member and where a period of 16 years has been served.

Reviewing the current Criteria

- 3.8 When the current criteria were extended to require 16 years' service, the rationale for the decision was to focus the award on exclusively recognising long service by Councillors to the Borough. Some Councillors have raised concerns that this recognises only time served on the Council, rather than the impact that a Member has made while in office, and that this is out of keeping with the spirit of the Act which specifies 'eminent' service rather than 'long' service.
- 3.9 Having reviewed the admissions to the Roll made in 2006, 2010 and 2014, it appears that this concern is well founded, with all admissions in the past twelve years made exclusively on length of service.
- 3.10 Having looked across other Local Authorities in London, there is no single favoured approach to the qualification criteria for aldermen and alderwomen. However, there are some requirements frequently seen elsewhere that Council may wish to give consideration to. These include:
- Focussing nominations on the 'eminence' of each Member's service rather than solely the duration;
 - Considering the contribution that each Member has made to the Borough as a whole, including the formal roles that they have undertaken; and
 - Allowing political group leaders to agree nominations to be considered by the Mayoralty and Honorary Freedom Selection Sub-Committee.
- 3.11 To that end, Council is recommended to amend the criteria as detailed in paragraph 6.1 of Part 4A of the Constitution to read as follows:

"Honorary Aldermen and Alderwomen

Former Members of the London Borough of Croydon, nominated by the Leader of a political group represented on the Council, who have either:

- (iii) rendered eminent service in their capacity as Member, considering the contribution that they have made to the borough, including roles served and how their service rendered is above and beyond that expected of all Members; or*
- (iv) served a period of twelve years on the Council"*

4. ANNUAL REPORT OF THE YOUNG MAYOR

- 4.1 In March 2018, more than 12,000 11 to 18 year olds participated in the election of Croydon's first Young Mayor and Deputy Young Mayor. The Young Mayor is elected for one year to represent the views of young people and encourage them to create opportunities around issues that matter to them and their communities.
- 4.2 As part of their duties, the Young Mayor works with a panel that allocates grant funding totalling £20,000 per annum to fund projects designed by young people in Croydon.
- 4.3 The Young Mayor and Deputy Young Mayor have standing invites to attend and participate in meetings of the Cabinet, and at its meeting on 16 July 2018 (Minute No. 55/18 refers), Members of the Cabinet indicated their desire that the Council formalise the Young Mayor's role in local decision making.
- 4.4 To achieve this request, Council is asked to consider amending Part 4A of its Constitution to make provision for the Young Mayor to present an annual report to an ordinary meeting of the Council, with the timing to coincide with the end of the Young Mayor's one year term of office.
- 4.5 The proposed amendment to the Constitution is to insert after paragraph 3.49 of Part 4A the following two paragraphs:
- 3.49(i) The outgoing Young Mayor, elected annually, will be permitted to present their annual report to an ordinary meeting of the Council in October of each year or as close to the end of the Young Mayor's annual term as possible. Following the presentation of the annual report, the report will be open to questions from Members.
- 3.49(ii) The overall time available for this item will be ten minutes.

5. SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING

- 5.1 In considering this report, Members are also asked to agree to convene a Special Meeting of the Council, in accordance with paragraph 6 of Part 4A of the Constitution, to take place on 3 December 2018.
- 5.2 The purpose of the meeting will be to consider any recommendations from the Mayoralty and Honorary Freedom Selection Sub-Committee regarding the admission of former Members to the Roll of Honorary Aldermen and Alderwomen and the granting of the Freedom of the Borough.

6. CONSULTATION

- 6.1 Both political groups represented on the Council have been consulted on the proposals contained in this report.

7. FINANCIAL AND RISK ASSESSMENT CONSIDERATIONS

- 7.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from the proposals contained within this report.

Approved by: Lisa Taylor, Director of Finance, Investment and Risk

8. COMMENTS OF THE COUNCIL SOLICITOR AND MONITORING OFFICER

- 8.1 The Solicitor to the Council comments that there are no additional legal implications arising from the report not already set out in the body of the report.

Approved by: Jacqueline Harris Baker Director of Law and Governance

CONTACT OFFICER: Stephen Rowan
Head of Democratic Services and Scrutiny

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS: None.