

<b>REPORT TO:</b>		Council (Special Meeting)	
<b>DATE:</b>		28 May 2026	
<b>REPORT AUTHOR:</b>		Executive Director (Legal and Democratic Services)	
<b>TITLE OF REPORT:</b>		<b>Appointment of Honorary Aldermen</b>	
<b>EXEMPT REPORT (Local Government Act 1972, Schedule 12A)</b>	<b>No</b>	Not applicable	
<b>KEY DECISION:</b>	<b>No</b>	If yes, date of publication:	n/a

### **Purpose of Report**

1.1 To approve the appointment of new Aldermen of the Borough for 2026 in respect of the following individuals:

- Josh Allen
- Bernard Dawson MBE
- Joyce Plummer

### **2. Recommendations**

2.1 That in accordance with Section 249(1) of the Local Government Act 1972, the Council appoints the following as Aldermen: Josh Allen, Bernard Dawson MBE and Joyce Plummer with the formal presentation to be made at the Mayor Making Council on 20<sup>th</sup> of June 2026, or should that not prove possible due to the unavailability of the recipient, at some stage during the remainder of the Municipal Year 2026/27.

***(The above names to be moved, seconded and voted upon en bloc);***

2.2 That the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, be authorised to make the necessary arrangements for the formal presentation of the above awards.

### **3. Reasons for Recommendations and Background**

3.1 Members are reminded that, at the Special Council meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> March 2026, the Council conferred honours on 10 new Freemen of the Borough and 3 new Aldermen for 2026. The intention is to formally present their awards at the Council Mayor Making Meeting and ceremony due to be held on 20<sup>th</sup> June 2026.

3.2 Subsequently, three new nominations have been received for awards in 2026 and it is envisaged that, if granted, these awards will be presented on the same occasion as above.

## **Aldermen Appointments**

- 3.3 To qualify for appointment as an Alderman the proposed recipient must have rendered eminent services to the Council as a past member of the Council but must not currently be a member of the Council (section 249(1) Local Government Act 1972).
- 3.4 Additional guidance as to eligibility is provided in the Civic Protocol, including the following:
- 12 years' service.
  - Consideration will be given to members not having 12 years' service but who have, during their years of office, held the title of Mayor, Mayoress, Consort, Leader of the Council or Leader of an Opposition group (providing the latter office was held for three years or more).
- 3.5 The proposed recipients Josh Allen, Bernard Dawson MBE and Joyce Plummer all have lengthy and distinguished former service with the Council and/or are former Mayors or Mayoresses of the Borough. As such, they are all considered to meet the eligibility criteria.

## **4. Voting Requirements**

- 4.1 The legislation requires that a principal council may, by a resolution passed by not less than two-thirds of the members voting thereon at a meeting of the council specially convened for the purpose with notice of the object, may confer the honours as set out above.

## **5. Alternative Options considered and Reasons for Rejection**

- 5.1 None.

## **6. Consultations**

- 6.1 The proposed recipients have also been consulted and have agreed to accept the title offered.

## **7. Implications**

<b>Financial implications (including any future financial commitments for the Council)</b>	Funding was identified from within the 2025/26 budget for the purchase of 12 commemorative badges and cases at a cost of £419.53 each (£5,034.36 in total) in anticipation of the allocation of the 2026 honours and to supplement those medals already held in stock for future awards.
--	--

	<p>Funding will also be required from within existing Mayoralty budget in respect of the extra costs to be incurred at the Mayor Making event for hospitality for a total of 16 new dignitaries and their guests (including those approved at the Special Council meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> March 2026). Assuming that the usual protocol is followed of permitting each recipient (or their representative in the case of posthumous awards) up to 8 free guests and based on the estimated cost of £35 per head for the meal, additional costs of up to a maximum of £5,040 are estimated to be incurred in 2026/27.</p> <p>In addition, aldermen are generally presented with a small gift at the ceremony, for which there will be a nominal cost.</p> <p>The above sums can be met from within the 2026/27 Mayoralty budget, although the stock of commemorative badges may need to be replenished for 2027, subject to funding being available.</p>
<b>Legal and human rights implications</b>	The recommendations comply with Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972.
<b>Assessment of risk</b>	None.
<b>Equality and diversity implications</b> <i>A <a href="#">Customer First Analysis</a> should be completed in relation to policy decisions and should be attached as an appendix to the report.</i>	Not applicable.

**8. Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985:  
List of Background Papers**

8.1 None.

**9. Freedom of Information**

9.1 The report does not contain exempt information under the Local Government Act 1972, Schedule 12A and all information can be disclosed under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.