

SPECIAL COUNCIL

15 OCTOBER 2015

TED BAKER AND PAUL HARRIOTT – CONFERMENT OF TITLE OF HONORARY ALDERMEN OF THE BOROUGH

Portfolio holder: Councillor Alan Jarrett, Leader

Report from: Neil Davies, Chief Executive

Author: Jane Ringham, Head of Members' Services and Elections

Summary

This report has been prepared at the request of the Leader at the Full Council meeting on 23 April 2015 and invites the Council to consider a proposal to confer the status of Honorary Alderman of the Borough on Ted Baker and Paul Harriott.

1. Budget and Policy Framework

- 1.1 This is a matter for Council for the reasons set out in paragraph 2.3 below.

2. Background

- 2.1 The Honorary Alderman of the Borough is a significant civic distinction that can be conferred upon individuals in recognition of outstanding service as past Members of the Council, ensuring the honourable perpetuation of their memory within the community.
- 2.2 Entry to the roll of Alderman is usually accompanied by the presentation to the recipient of a scroll embodying details of the formal Council resolution and engrossed with the Council's corporate seal.
- 2.3 The power to award Honorary Alderman of the Borough is contained in the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended). Section 249 of that Act requires that an appropriate resolution is passed by not less than two thirds of the Members voting thereon at a meeting of the Council

specially convened for the purpose. Those awarded Honorary Alderman are required to be persons of distinction or persons who have, in the opinion of the Council, rendered eminent services to the Council as past members.

3. Personal history of Ted Baker and contribution to Medway Council

- 3.1 Initially a compositor by trade, Ted joined the Royal Marines and served in 40 Commando, seeing active service in Suez and Cyprus before serving in the Royal Marine Reserve. He joined the Prison Service in 1976, before retiring in 1993.
- 3.2 Ted Baker was first elected to the City of Rochester Council in 1961. He represented the then Troy Town ward of Rochester upon Medway City Council in May 1987. He then represented St Margaret's & Borstal Ward on Medway Towns District Council in May 1997 and at the inaugural elections for Medway Council in 2000. From 2003 he has represented Rochester West ward continuously.
- 3.3 Ted has served as Mayor on two occasions, initially in 2002 and then again in 2011. In 2002 his aim was to highlight citizenship amongst young people and the records show he visited 70 schools, making more than one visit in some cases. Ted has also been Deputy Mayor four times in 1971, 1990, 2000 and 2008.
- 3.4 Ted has served on a number of Council committees, notably as the Chairman of the Employment Matters Committee in 2001, as the Vice Chairman of the Environment and Frontline Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee between 2003 and 2006, Vice Chairman of the Regeneration and Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee in 2006 and Chairman of the School Transport and Curriculum Appeal Committee for the period 2008 to 2011 and 2013. He has also sat on the Children and Young People Overview & Scrutiny Committee (or its predecessors) since 2003 and the Development Control Committee and its replacement Planning Committee continuously between 2004 and 2014. Ted has also served as a Governor of Sir Joseph Williamson's Mathematics School, is a trustee of the Rochester Grammar School and MHS Charity Board and the ABC Project in Borstal.

4. Personal history of Paul Harriott and contribution to Medway Council

- 4.1 Born on the Isle of Sheppey, Paul has lived in the Medway since 1939, coming out of National Service as a Sapper with the Royal Engineers and joining Chatham Dockyard as a technological officer.
- 4.2 First elected to Gillingham Borough Council in 1962, Paul has represented the Twydall community continuously since 1973.

- 4.3 When the news of the closure of Chatham Dockyard was announced, the political parties came together and Paul was part of a delegation to see the Defence Secretary, John Nott.
- 4.4 Housing issues have always been at the heart of Paul's interests, and during his 50 years in local government, he served as Chairman of the Gillingham housing committee where he oversaw the building of hundreds of homes, the construction of sheltered homes and the refurbishment of properties to decent standards.
- 4.5 Paul has served as a governor of Danecourt School and continues to be a governor at St Thomas of Canterbury RC Primary School – both the schools being located in Twydall.
- 4.6 Paul also served as Mayor of Gillingham Council for the period 1974-1975 and as Labour Group leader on that Council during the 1980s, as Vice-Chairman of Medway Towns Council between 1997-98 and on a variety of committees. Notable among these are his time as Chairman of the Housing Sub-Committee between 1999 and 2000 and as Vice-Chairman of the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee between 2001 and 2003. Paul has also been the Labour Group Spokesperson on the Licensing and Safety Committee and the Licensing Sub-Committee continuously from 2001. He has also served as a member of the Business Support Overview and Scrutiny Committee from 2007 to 2015. Paul has also served for 30 years on the Rochester Bridge Wardens Trust, serving as Junior, Senior and Assistant Warden, representing the interests of the community which he continues to do.

5. Financial, risk management and legal implications

- 5.1 The power to confer the Honorary Alderman of the Borough of Medway on persons of distinction or persons who have, in the opinion of the Council, rendered eminent services to the Council as past Member, is contained within section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972. Section 249 of the Act also empowers the Council to spend a reasonable sum for the purpose of presenting an address or casket containing an address to a person upon whom the Honorary Alderman of the Borough has been conferred.
- 5.2 The cost of this special Council meeting, the scrolls setting out the resolution of the Council that will be presented to Ted Baker and Paul Harriott and presentation caskets will be met from existing budget provision within Democracy & Governance Division. There are no risk management implications arising from this report.

6. Recommendation

- 6.1 That, in pursuance of the power vested in it by virtue of section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972, the Council agrees to confer the title of Honorary Alderman of the borough on:

- (a) Ted Baker; and
- (b) Paul Harriott

in perpetuity on the basis that they may, from time to time, be invited to participate in civic ceremonies as the Council may decide.

Note: this resolution must be passed by not less than two-thirds of the members voting thereon to take effect, in accordance with section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended).

Lead officer contact

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Background papers

Working documents held in Democratic Services office, Gun Wharf

Appendices

None