

HONORARY ALDERMEN

Policy Statement

Section 249(1) of the Local Government Act 1972 as amended by the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009 empowers the Council to confer the title of Honorary Alderman on persons who have, in the opinion of the Council, rendered Eminent Services to the Council as past Members of that Council but who are not then Members of the Council.

Eligibility and Restrictions

Nominees must be a former Councillor of Gloucester City Council.

It is anticipated that, other than in exceptional circumstances, the maximum number of Honorary Aldermen to be appointed each municipal year is restricted to two in recognition of the important status of this appointment.

Who Can Make Nominations and How

Nominations can be made by elected Members. Nominations should be submitted to the Democratic and Electoral Services Manager.

All nominations for Honorary Alderman are treated in the strictest confidence and the nominee should not be informed that they have been nominated.

Process

On receipt of a nomination the Democratic and Electoral Services Manager will make the details available to Group Leaders, who will assess the nominee against the criteria. A unanimous decision is required in order to proceed.

If Group Leaders are in agreement that the nominee should be made an Honorary Alderman, the nominee will be invited to accept the honour. If agreed, a Special Meeting of the Council will be convened in order for the nomination to be put before the Council and a formal vote taken. No fewer than two-thirds of those present at the Council meeting must agree the nomination.

The decisions of the Council on all nominations are final.

Assessment Criteria

The following will be taken into account when consideration is given to granting the honour of Honorary Alderman of the City of Gloucester:

1. Must have rendered eminent services by way of exceptional contribution to the City and its Council in terms of length of service and, in particular, achievement whilst in office.

2. Must be considered suitable for fulfilling the role of an Honorary Alderman, and respected by their peers and communities.
3. Their achievement/s should be exemplary.

Entitlement

1. To enjoy the ceremonial title of Honorary Alderman and be so addressed.
2. To be invited to attend Civic events hosted by the Council where appropriate and be invited to take part in civic processions where appropriate.
3. To be invited to attend meetings of Annual Council, and may attend Council meetings as a non-participating guest and a seat will be reserved for them in the Chamber.
4. They may be called upon to assist the Council through representation at a Civic event in the absence of the Mayor or Sheriff/Deputy Mayor of the Council.
5. They may wish to assist the Mayor and Sheriff/Deputy Mayor in charity fundraising for the Mayor and Sheriff's chosen charities.
6. To be an ambassador for the Council and promote civic pride.
7. They may wish to purchase a badge of office and this can be arranged through Democratic and Electoral Services.
8. To enjoy such privileges as Gloucester City Council may from time to time confer upon Honorary Aldermen.

Limitations

1. Honorary Aldermen may be reappointed by election to serve on Gloucester City Council, but their Aldermanic Office is suspended for the period of their appointment as a Councillor.
2. The Honorary title may be removed by way of Council resolution in light of circumstances such as imprisonable criminal conviction, or bringing the Council into disrepute.
3. No payments will be made to an Honorary Alderman for any expenditure of service that they undertake whilst in office.