

**EXPLANATORY NOTE****HONORARY ALDERMEN****Background**

1. Under Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972, the County Council may “confer the title of Honorary Aldermen on persons who have, in the opinion of the Council, rendered eminent services to the Council as part members of that Council”.
2. Such a decision must be made by a resolution passed by not less than two thirds of the members voting thereon at a special meeting of the Council. Thus, the title can only be conferred upon past members of the Council who are not councillors at the date of that meeting.
3. An Honorary Alderman is entitled to attend and take part in such civic ceremonies as the Council may from time to time decide.
4. At an extraordinary meeting on 13 July 2005 the County Council approved the principle of the Council appointing Honorary Aldermen from time to time and agreed the basis on which such appointments should take place.
5. The Council has indicated that the conferring of the title of Honorary Alderman should be on a strictly limited basis to recognise the exceptional service of people who have reached the end of their political careers.

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