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SOUTHEND-ON-SEA CITY COUNCIL

**General Purposes Committee**

**Date: Thursday, 27th February, 2025**

**Time: 6.30 pm**

**Place: Committee Room 1 - Civic Suite**

**Contact: Robert Harris - Principal Committee Officer**

**Email: [committeesection@southend.gov.uk](mailto:committeesection@southend.gov.uk)**

**AGENDA**

- 1 Apologies for Absence**
- 2 Declarations of Interest**
- 3 Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday, 13 June 2024 (Pages 3 - 4)**
- 4 Honorary Alderman Nominations (Pages 5 - 14)**  
Report of Executive Director (Strategy and Change)
- 5 Exclusion of the Public**  
To agree that, under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the items of business set out below on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act, and that the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.
- 6 Freedom of the City Nomination (Pages 15 - 22)**  
Report of Executive Director (Strategy and Change)
- 7 Freedom of the City Nomination (Pages 23 - 30)**  
Report of Executive Director (Strategy and Change)

**Chair & Members:**

Cllr M O'Connor (Chair), Cllr K Robinson (Vice-Chair), Cllr O Cartey, Cllr M Faulkner-Hatt, Cllr P Kinsella, Cllr R McMullan, Cllr J Moyies, Cllr D Nelson and Cllr N Ward

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# SOUTHEND-ON-SEA CITY COUNCIL

## Meeting of General Purposes Committee

**Date: Thursday, 13th June, 2024**  
**Place: Committee Room 1 - Civic Suite**

# 3

**Present:** Councillor M O'Connor (Chair)  
Councillors K Robinson (Vice-Chair), M Faulkner-Hatt, P Kinsella,  
R McMullan and N Ward

**In Attendance:** Councillors D Cowan & I Gilbert (Cabinet Members)  
C Shuter, J Chesterton, S Zeiss, C Gamble and T Row

**Start/End Time:** 5.00 pm - 5.15 pm

### **1 Apologies for Absence**

There were no apologies for absence.

### **2 Declarations of Interest**

There were no interests declared at the meeting.

### **3 Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday, 6 February 2024**

Resolved:-

That the Minutes of the Meeting held on Tuesday, 6<sup>th</sup> February 2024, be confirmed as a correct record and signed.

### **4 Report of Monitoring Officer on Proposed Immediate Changes to Southend-on-Sea City Council Constitution - attached**

The Committee received a report of the Executive Director (Strategy & Change) regarding an immediate change to the Council's Constitution relating to the appointment of Chairs and Vice Chairs of Overview and Scrutiny Committees and to make such recommendations to Council for decision.

Resolved:-

That Council be recommended to approve the following:

1. An amendment to the second sentence in Part 3 Schedule 2 paragraph 5.1(a) of the Constitution to read as follows: "The Chairs and Vice-Chairs shall be drawn from members of the committee", as set out in paragraph 3.3.1 of the submitted report.

2. An amendment to Part 4(e) Overview & Scrutiny Procedure Rules Rule 5. "Who chairs the Scrutiny Committee?" to read as follows: "Chairs and vice chairs of the

scrutiny committees will be drawn from among the Councillors sitting on the committee”, as set out in paragraph 3.3.2 of the report.

3. Authority is delegated to the Monitoring Office to make the agreed amendments and to amend any other associated provision in the Constitution to reflect the decision of Council (if made) and to publish a revised version of the Constitution on the Council’s website.

**5 Report of Monitoring Officer Requesting a Review of the Constitution - attached**

The Committee received a report of the Executive Director (Strategy & Change) that sought approval to commission a complete review of the Council’s Constitution and the proposed scope of that review. The report also recommended that cross-party Member engagement with the progress of the review should be by the Council’s Standards Committee and that the delegation of functions to Standards Committee be amended to include the receipt of reports from the Monitoring Officer on any amendments and alterations to the Constitution. The Standards Committee will then make recommendations for the adoption of a new Constitution, in whole or in part, to Council.

Resolved:-

That Council be recommended:

1. That authority be delegated to the Monitoring Officer to commence a review of the whole of the Council’s Constitution and to report on all proposed changes to the Standards Committee for recommendation to Council in a future report or series of reports.
2. That those future amendments and alterations to the Constitution first be considered at the Standards Committee through a report or reports from the Monitoring Officer and that the Standards Committee makes recommendations on the suggested amendments and alterations to Council for decision and eventual adoption of a new Constitution.
3. That the Monitoring Officer be authorised, in consultation with the Leader, to make all necessary amendments to the Responsibility for Functions (Part 3 Schedule 2 paragraph 7), Terms of Reference for Standards Committee and other relevant parts of the constitution to reflect the Council’s decision (if made) in Recommendation 2 above.

**Chair:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Meeting:** General Purposes Committee  
**Date:** 27<sup>th</sup> February 2025  
**Classification:** Part 1  
**Key Decision:** No  
**Title of Report:** **Honorary Alderman Nominations**

**Executive Director:** Claire Shuter – Executive Director (Strategy and Change)  
**Report Author:** Robert Harris – Principal Democratic Services Officer  
**Executive Councillor:** Councillor Cowan – Leader of the Council

## **1. Executive Summary**

- 1.1. For the General Purposes Committee to consider the two nominations received for the title of Honorary Alderman, awarded to past Councillors who have rendered eminent services to the Council.

## **2. Recommendations**

- 2.1. That the Committee considers the nominations at Appendix 1 and makes appropriate recommendations to Council.**

## **3. Background**

- 3.1 S.249(1) of the Local Government Act 1972 gives the Council power to confer the title of “Honorary Alderman” or “Honorary Alderwoman” on past Members of the Council who have rendered eminent services to the Council or a predecessor authority. An Extraordinary Council meeting must be convened for this purpose and the resolution to confer the title must be passed by not less than two thirds of the Councillors voting on it.
- 3.2 The Council at its meeting on 10th December 2015 agreed the principle to confer the title of Honorary Alderman/Alderwoman on past Councillors with at least 15 years’ service and who had rendered eminent services to the Council (or a predecessor authority). The terms of reference of the General Purposes Committee were amended to give it authority to make recommendations to the Council on nominees.

- 3.3 Following the adoption of a process to confer the title of Honorary Alderman and Honorary Alderwoman, Group Leaders were invited to make nominations in early 2016.
- 3.4 Two nominations have been received: John Lamb and Mike Stafford and the respective nomination forms are attached at Appendices 1 and 2 to this report.
- 3.5 Subject to the recommendations of the General Purposes Committee, it is proposed to arrange an Extraordinary Council meeting in April to confer the title of Honorary Alderman.

#### **4. Reasons for Decisions**

- 4.1. To make recommendations to Council to confer the title of Honorary Alderman on the past Councillors.

#### **5. Other Options**

- 5.1. None

#### **6. Financial Implications**

- 6.1. The Council has the power under Section 249(4A) of the Local Government Act 1972 to spend a reasonable sum as thought fit for the purpose of conferring the title of Honorary Alderman/Honorary Alderwoman.
- 6.2. It is proposed to present a certificate (printed in house) and a badge to the Honorary Aldermen, with the costs being met from the existing budget provision.

#### **7. Legal Implications**

As set out above.

#### **8. Policy Context**

- 8.1 None

#### **9. Carbon Impact**

- 9.1. None

#### **10. Equalities**

- 10.1. None

#### **11. Consultation**

- 11.1. Group Leaders

**12. Appendices**

- 12.1. **Appendix 1**: Nomination Form (John Lamb)
- Appendix 2**: Nomination Form (Mike Stafford)

**13. Report Authorisation**

<b>This report has been approved for publication by:</b>		
	<b>Name:</b>	<b>Date:</b>
S151 Officer	Joe Chesterton	11/02/25
Monitoring Officer	Susan Zeiss	11/02/25
Executive Director(s)	Claire Shuter	11/02/25

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## SOUTHEND-ON-SEA BOROUGH COUNCIL

### HONORARY ALDERMEN / ALDERWOMAN NOMINATION FORM

<b>Name of past Member and their address:</b>	John Lamb
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<b>Please give details (<i>if possible</i>) of the years when the past Member served on the Southend-on-Sea Borough Council or its predecessor (Southend-on-Sea County Borough Council):</b>	1999 – 2001 (Leigh Ward) and 2001 - 2024
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<b>How many years in total did the past Member serve? (<i>Please provide if possible</i>)</b>	<b>25 years</b>
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<p><b>Please provide details of the eminent service which the past Member rendered to the Council or a predecessor authority. <i>Please continue on a separate sheet if necessary.</i></b></p> <p>John was a dedicated and committed Councillor during his long tenure of office. During this time he has held a wide range of portfolios and Cabinet posts, including (but not limited to):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Enterprise, Tourism and Regeneration</li><li>• Corporate Budget and Resource Planning</li><li>• Corporate Planning and Strategic Direction</li><li>• Emergency Planning</li><li>• Media and Communications</li><li>• National and Regional Affairs</li><li>• Regulatory Services</li><li>• Responsibilities for sea and foreshore defences</li><li>• Emergency Planning (strategic)</li></ul> <p>John was Deputy Leader from 2007 and Leader of the Council in 2015</p> <p>He represented Leigh Ward and following boundary changes has represented West Leigh since 2001. John was a dedicated and widely respected Councillor and always gave his time to others.</p> <p>John was elected Mayor of Southend in 2019 becoming the 99<sup>th</sup> Mayor after stepping down as Leader of the Conservative Group. He was also the first Mayor to have his term extended since the second world war, due to the pandemic/Covid. During this time he served as Mayor with distinction and raised significant amounts of money for various</p>
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charities for war veterans and the Southend Royal Lifeboat Institution – two areas close to his heart.

John also served on a number of external bodies including the Kent and Essex Inshore Fisheries Conservation Authority and The Southend Association of Volunteers (SAVS).

**Please confirm that as far as you know the past Member would accept the honour and that he / she has no intention to stand again for the Council, remain very active in party politics or their future activities could bring them into conflict with the Council:**

I can confirm that John Lamb would accept the honour.

<b>Name of Group Leader making this Nomination:</b>	Councillor James Courtenay
<b>Signed:</b>	Cllr Courtenay
<b>Dated:</b>	03/09/2024

**Please return to:**

Democratic Services Team  
 Floor 2  
 Civic Centre  
 Victoria Avenue  
 Southend-on-Sea  
 Essex  
 SS2 6ER

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## SOUTHEND-ON-SEA BOROUGH COUNCIL

### HONORARY ALDERMEN / ALDERWOMAN NOMINATION FORM

Name of past Member and their address:	MIKE STAFFORD 85 MAPLIN WAY, SOUTHEND-ON-SEA, ESSEX.
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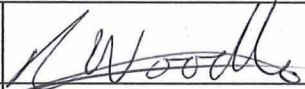
Please give details (if possible) of the years when the past Member served on the Southend-on-Sea City Council or its predecessor (Southend-on-Sea County Borough Council):	16 YEARS.
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How many years in total did the past Member serve? (Please provide if possible)	16
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<p>Please provide details of the eminent service which the past Member rendered to the Council or a predecessor authority. <i>Please continue on a separate sheet if necessary.</i></p> <p>Mike, served the Council and his residents on various COMMITTEES. Acted as Treasurer of B.F.R.A (Residents Association) in Thorpe Bay for 22 years and was instrumental working alongside Cllr Ron Woodley in removing restrictive covenants and residents to purchase their freeholds for over 1750 households of the Burges Estate.</p>
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Please confirm that as far as you know the past Member would accept the honour and that he / she has no intention to stand again for the Council, remain very active in party politics or their future activities could bring them into conflict with the Council:

Mike Wood welcome the opportunity to become an honorary alderman and has no intention of standing again for the council.

Name of Group Leader making this Nomination:	C12R Ron WOODLEY MAYOR.
Signed:	
Dated:	18-7-2024.

Please return to:

Democratic Services Team  
Floor 2  
Civic Centre  
Victoria Avenue  
Southend-on-Sea  
Essex  
SS2 6ER

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