

## HONORARY ALDERMEN/FREEMEN

### 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 or Alderwoman 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.

The Council may also grant to persons of distinction who have rendered eminent service to Rutland County the title of Honorary Freeman or Freewoman

### Eligibility and Restrictions

The following will be taken into account when consideration is given to granting the honour of Honorary Alderwoman/Alderman of Rutland County District Council:

1. Must have served as a Councillor for at least 2 terms. *[there are various requirements that Council's set for these ranging from 20 years service for some councils to no service requirement for others]*
2. Must be considered suitable for fulfilling the role of an Honorary Alderman, and respected by their peers and communities. *[again some council's set specific requirements for this. Some Council's make it a requirement that the person has served in a particular office such as Chairman or leader. Again members have discretion on this and are able to set the criteria they think best reflects Rutland.]*
3. Their achievement/s should be exemplary.
4. Must no longer hold elected office within the Rutland County District Council area.

The following will be taken into account when consideration is given to granting the honour of Honorary Freeman/Freewoman of Rutland County District Council:

1. Must be considered suitable for fulfilling the role of an Honorary Freeman, and respected by their peers and communities. *[these criteria are again open for Council to set within the law. This category should be used for those who have not been Councillors]*
2. Their achievement/s should be exemplary.
3. Must not have held elected office with Rutland County District Council.

### Who Can Make Nominations and How

Nominations can be made by elected Members. Nominations should be submitted to the Director for Resources.

## **Process**

Nominations should be sent to the Director of Resources. If the nominee is able to meet the requirements set out in this Scheme then 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.

## **Entitlement**

*[Again it is for Council to decide what they would like to include in this area and some additional options are set out in the report that accompanies the scheme]*

1. To enjoy the ceremonial title of Honorary Alderman/Honorary Freeman and be so addressed.
  
2. To be invited to attend the following Civic events where appropriate and be invited to take part in civic processions where appropriate such as
  - Remembrance Sunday
  - Annual Civic Service

the Honorary Alderman/Woman and/or Freeman/Freewoman will receive invitations to certain events.

3. To be invited to attend meetings of Annual Council;

## **Limitations**

1. Honorary Aldermen may be reappointed by election to serve on Rutland County Council, but their 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.