



## **A note about honorary aldermen**

District councils (and all other principal councils in England) may confer the title of “Honorary Alderman” on a person who has rendered eminent service to the Council as a past member of that Council. The title is a recognition of service and does not provide any special privileges. It may not be conferred on a serving councillor. A decision to grant the title must be made at a meeting specially convened for the purpose (eg an Extraordinary Meeting to be held immediately before an Ordinary Meeting) and the resolution must be passed by not less than two-thirds of the members voting thereon.

This power is granted by Section 249 of the Local Government Act 1972 and came into effect in 1974. The position of “honorary alderman” is completely different to that of “alderman” that existed prior to 1974 and that still exists in the City of London. The Act specifies that honorary aldermen “may attend and take part in such civic ceremonies as the Council may from time to time decide”. This usually includes invitations to annual civic social events. Generally they are also invited to attend the Annual Council Meeting, although they do not have any rights or privileges other than those enjoyed by the public.

The Council’s existing Honorary Aldermen and the Authorities on which they served are –

Howard Bruce Roberts  
North Somerset Council  
*(title conferred on 30/04/12)*