

REPORT FOR:

ANNUAL COUNCIL

Date of Meeting:

19 May 2016

Subject:

**Recognition of Long Service:
Councillor Christine Bednell**

Responsible Officer:

Hugh Peart – Director of Legal and
Governance Services

Exempt:

No

Enclosures:

None

Section 1 – Purpose and Recommendations

1. Summary

The Council on 18 July 1985 adopted a recommendation from the then Policy and Resources Committee meeting of 2 July, concerning the recognition of Members' long service and resolved:

“That the Council agree that Members of the Council who complete 25 years' service with the Council be presented with framed, illuminated copy resolutions of appreciation”. This report sets out the proposal, for which there is no precedent, for a Long Service Award to Councillor Christine Bednell to mark reaching 45 years' service.

RECOMMENDATION:

That (1) the Council is requested to acknowledge Councillor Christine Bednell's 45 years' service as a Member for Harrow Council in May 2016;

(2) the Council is requested to resolve that

The Council of the London Borough of Harrow do hereby record their appreciation of the forty-five years' service by Councillor Christine Bednell to the London Borough of Harrow.

and for those words to be engrossed on vellum, framed and publicly presented to Councillor Bednell at the Council Meeting in September 2016.

(3) the milestone of achieving 40 years' service by a Councillor in future will be brought to the attention of the Mayor and the Leader of the Council by the Director of Legal and Governance Services for consideration on a case by case basis as to whether a scroll should be presented to the Councillor.

Section 2 - Background

- 2.1 It is the current policy of the Authority to recognise the completion of 25 years' service on the part of the Members of the Council by awarding a framed, illuminated address of appreciation (Council Resolution of 18 July 1985).
- 2.2 Full Council must agree any change or abandonment of this policy.
- 2.3 Long service awards were last made in May 2015 to Councillor Camilla Bath OBE and Councillor Chris Noyce. Councillor Christine Bednell achieved 25 years' service in 1996 and will achieve 45 years' service, 42 years of which are continuous, in May 2016. As there is no current policy to recognise this unprecedented length of service, Council is requested amend the policy to allow recognition of Councillor Bednell's exceptional achievement.
- 2.4 It is proposed that the Authority continue to recognise the completion of 25 years' service but that the milestone of 40 years also be recognised. The achievement of such a milestone should be brought to the attention of the Mayor and the Leader of the Council by the Director of Legal and Governance Services for consideration on a case by case basis as to whether a scroll should be presented to the Councillor.

Councillor Christine Bednell

Councillor Christine Bednell was first elected to the Council in May 1968 as a Member for the ward of Wealdstone North and then again in 1974 for the ward of West Harrow and has served continuously to date. Since 1986 Councillor Bednell has represented the ward of Stanmore Park. Following the Borough Elections of 2014 when Councillor Bednell was returned to serve as a Member for the Stanmore Park Ward, she will in the lifetime of this Council (in May 2016) attain 42 years' continuous service.

Councillor Bednell has served on various Council Committees including Cabinet, the Policy and Resources Committee, Education, Arts and Leisure Committee, Overview and Scrutiny Committee, School Organisation Committee and Call-In Sub-Committee. She has also held the Portfolios for Children's Services, Lifelong Learning and Cultural Services and Issues facing Older People, and Schools and Development. Councillor Bednell has made a major impact in the areas of Education and Social Services.

Councillor Bednell has represented the Council on numerous outside bodies including ALG Culture and Tourism Panel, John Pardoe Charity, London Councils' Children and Young People Lead Member, Mayor of Harrow's Charity Fund Trustees and Sir John Wolstenholme Charity.

In the municipal year 1985, Councillor Bednell held the office of Deputy Mayor and in 1986 was Mayor of the London Borough of Harrow.

Since the creation of the London Borough of Harrow in 1964, no other Councillor has given such long and diligent service.

The Council is requested to record its appreciation of the public service rendered by Councillor Bednell, in the form of the following resolution:

Councillor Christine Bednell: **Recognition of Long Service**

“The Council of the London Borough of Harrow do hereby record their appreciation of the forty-five years' service by Councillor Christine Bednell to the London Borough of Harrow.

In recognition of her completion of forty-five years of public service to Harrow, this resolution be engrossed on vellum, framed and publicly presented to Councillor Bednell at the Council Meeting in September 2016.”

2.4 This report is submitted, following consultation with the Leader of the Council, Leader of the Conservative Group and Councillor Bath.

Financial Implications

2.5 The costs associated with the vellums will be met from within existing budgets.

Section 3 - Statutory Officer Clearance

Name: Dawn Calvert	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Chief Financial Officer
Date: 6 April 2016	
Name: Alison Burns	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> on behalf of the Monitoring Officer
Date: 7 April 2016	

Section 4 - Contact Details and Background Papers

Contact:

Elaine McEachron
Democratic & Electoral Services Manager

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Background Papers:

Election records, Committee memberships.