

REPORT FOR: COUNCIL

Date of Meeting: 14 April 2011

Subject: Recognition of Long Service:
Councillors Lurline Champagnie OBE
and John Cowan

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 Long Service Awards to Councillors Lurline Champagnie OBE and John Cowan.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Council is requested to approve Long Service Awards marking Councillors Lurline Champagnie OBE and John Cowan's 25 years service as Members for Harrow Council in May 2011.

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 addresses of appreciation (Council Resolution of 18 July 1985).
- 2.1 Full Council must agree any change or abandonment of this policy.
- 2.3 A long service award was last made in May 2007 to Councillor Richard Romain. Two Members, Councillors Lurline Champagnie OBE and John Cowan, will achieve this distinction in May 2011.

Councillor Lurline Champagnie OBE

Councillor Lurline Champagnie OBE was first elected to the Council in May 1986 and has served continuously to date. Following the Borough Elections of 2010 when Councillor Champagnie OBE was returned to serve as a Member for the Pinner Ward, she will in the lifetime of this Council (in May 2011) attain the required 25 years' service.

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

Councillor Lurline Champagnie S.R.N., N.D.N. OBE: **Recognition of Long Service**

The Council of the London Borough of Harrow do hereby record their appreciation of the twenty five years' service by Councillor Lurline Champagnie, OBE to the London Borough of Harrow.

Councillor Champagnie, OBE was first elected in May 1986 as Councillor for the Pinner Ward, which she has represented continuously since then. She is currently serving her seventh consecutive period in office, for the life of the current Council 2010-2014.

Councillor Champagnie, OBE has served on various Council Committees, including the Social Services Committee and the Environment Services Committee. Her particular interest has, however, been with educational issues, giving rise to extended service on the Education Committee. In that time, she variously held the offices of Chairman of the Licensing and General Purposes Committee, Deputy Chairman of the Education Committee, Vice Chairman of the Social Services Committee and Chairman of the Arts Panel. Councillor Champagnie, OBE first served on the Education Committee in 1986, commencing a period of service on that Committee in its various guises and its sub-committees. Latterly, Councillor Champagnie OBE has also served on the Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education, the Standards Committee, and scrutiny sub-committees.

Councillor Champagnie OBE has represented the Council on numerous outside bodies including Age Concern Harrow, Deputy Lord Lieutenant's Committee, Harrow Unified Mental Health Service Partnership Board and Relate North West London

Councillor Champagnie OBE was Harrow's first black female Mayor. During her Mayoral Year of 2004/05, Councillor Champagnie OBE served as the First Citizen to the Borough and attended approximately 600 engagements, with personal highlights including a private audience with Nelson Mandela at South Africa House. As Deputy Mayor, she hosted Her Majesty the Queen in the Town Centre on Harrow's 50th Anniversary Celebrations on 1st April 2004.

Cllr Champagnie also attended the 50th Year Celebration of the Borough Garden Party at the Grimsdyke Hotel. During this year she also received as Mayor the Queen's Colour Squadron exercise its right to undertake a RAF Freedom March through Harrow, plus a fly past.

In January 2010, Councillor Champagnie OBE was awarded the Order of the British Empire (OBE) for services to Local Government and diversity.

In recognition of her completion of twenty-five years of public service to Harrow, this resolution be engrossed on vellum and publicly presented to Councillor Mrs Champagnie, OBE, at the Annual Council Meeting in May 2011."

Councillor John Cowan

Councillor Cowan was first elected to the Council in May 1986 and has served continuously to date. Following the Borough Elections of 2010 when Councillor Cowan was returned to serve as a Member for the Canons Ward, he will in the lifetime of this Council (in May 2011) attain the required 25 years' service.

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

Councillor John Cowan B.Com. (Hon), F.C.A: **Recognition of Long Service**

The Council of the London Borough of Harrow do hereby record their appreciation of the twenty five years' service by Councillor John Cowan to the London Borough of Harrow.

Councillor John Cowan was first elected in May 1986 as Councillor for the Canons Ward, which he has represented continuously since then. He is currently serving his seventh consecutive period in office, for the life of the current Council 2010-

2014. Councillor Cowan was Deputy Leader of the Conservative Group from 1997–1998 and Leader of the Group from 1999–2003.

Councillor Cowan has served on various Council Committees, including the Education Committee and the Policy and Resources Committee. He also served as a key appointee to the Harrow College Further Education Corporation Board and North London Collegiate School Board. His particular interest has, however, been with financial issues, giving rise to extended service on the Audit Committee and subsequently the Governance, Audit and Risk Committee. In that time, he held the offices of Chairman of the Audit Committee, Chairman of Governance Audit and Risk Committee and Deputy Chairman of the Policy and Resources Committee.

Councillor Cowan first served on the Policy and Resources Committee in 1988 commencing a period of service on that Committee in its various strategic guises, and additionally on the Resources Committee when this operated as a separate entity. When these arrangements were overtaken by the restructuring under the Local Government Act 2000, Councillor Cowan served as a member of the first Cabinet between 2000 and 2003. Latterly, Councillor Cowan has also served on the Standards Committee and the Licensing and General Purposes Committee. Councillor Cowan has represented the Council on numerous outside bodies including Harrow College of Further Education Corporation Board, Harrow in Business, Parochial Charities of Little Stanmore and Sir Lancelot Lake Charity.

During his Mayoral Year of 1994/95, Councillor Cowan served as First Citizen to the Borough and attended in excess of 550 engagements with personal highlights including attendance at the 50th Anniversary of the Liberation of Douai in September 1994, the Borough’s Twin Town. This was a highly memorable and moving occasion for all, with representatives from those army veterans who retook Douai also in attendance. He also served as Mayor when the Royal Air Force exercised its right to march following the granting of the Freedom of the Borough, receiving the salute of inspected troops and a “fly past” by aircraft of the Royal Air Force over the Civic Centre.

Councillor Cowan was fully supported in his personal Mayoral Year by his wife, late Councillor Janet Cowan, and reciprocally similarly aided his wife during her personal Mayoral Year of 2006.

In recognition of his completion of twenty-five years of public service to Harrow, this resolution be engrossed on vellum and publicly presented to Councillor Cowan by the Mayor, at the Annual Council Meeting in May 2011.”

2.4 The costs for the long service awards will be met from existing budgets.

2.5 This report is submitted, following consultation with the Leader of the Council, Leader of the Conservative Group and Councillors Lurline Champagnie OBE and John Cowan.

Section 3 - Contact Details and Background Papers

Contact:

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Background Papers: Election records, Committee memberships