



Local Government Act 1972

1972 CHAPTER 70

PART XII

MISCELLANEOUS AND GENERAL

Status, etc.

249 [F¹Honorary titles].

- (1) A principal council may, by a resolution passed by not less than two-thirds of the members voting thereon at a meeting of the council specially convened for the purpose with notice of the object, confer the title of honorary aldermen [F²or honorary alderwomen] 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 [F³members] of the council.
- (2) No honorary alderman [F⁴or honorary alderwoman] shall, while serving as a [F⁵member] of the council, be entitled to be addressed as alderman [F⁶or alderwoman] or to attend or take part in any civic ceremonies of the council as an alderman [F⁷or alderwoman].
- (3) Services rendered to the council of an existing county, county borough, borough or urban or rural district the area of which becomes wholly or partly included in a new county or district shall be treated for the purposes of subsection (1) above as services rendered to the council of the new county or district, as the case may be.
- (4) An honorary alderman [F⁸or honorary alderwoman] of a principal council may attend and take part in such civic ceremonies as the council may from time to time decide, but shall not, as such, have the right—
 - (a) to attend meetings of the council or a committee of the council (including a joint committee upon which they are represented); or
 - (b) to receive any such allowances or other payments as are payable under sections 173 to 176 above [F⁹or Part 8 of the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011].

Changes to legislation: Local Government Act 1972, Section 249 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 25 May 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes

- [^{F10}(4A) A principal council may spend such reasonable sum as they think fit for the purpose of presenting an address, or a casket containing an address, to a person on whom they have conferred the title of honorary alderman or honorary alderwoman.]
- [^{F11}(5) Subject as follows, a relevant authority may admit to be honorary freemen or honorary freewomen of the place or area for which it is the authority—
- (a) persons of distinction, and
 - (b) persons who have, in the opinion of the authority, rendered eminent services to that place or area.
- (6) In this section “relevant authority” means—
- (a) a principal council;
 - (b) a parish or community council;
 - (c) charter trustees in England constituted—
 - (i) under section 246 of the Local Government Act 1972,
 - (ii) by the Charter Trustees Regulations 1996 (SI 1996/263), or
 - (iii) under Part 1 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007.
- (7) The power in subsection (5) above is exercisable by resolution of the relevant authority.
- (8) A resolution under subsection (7) above must be passed—
- (a) at a meeting of the relevant authority which is specially convened for the purpose and where notice of the object of the meeting has been given; and
 - (b) by not less than two-thirds of the members of the relevant authority (or, in the case of charter trustees, of the trustees) who vote on it.
- (9) A relevant authority may spend such reasonable sum as it thinks fit for the purpose of presenting an address or a casket containing an address to a person on whom the authority has conferred the title of honorary freeman or honorary freewoman under subsection (5) above.
- (10) The admission of a person as honorary freeman or honorary freewoman does not confer on that person any of the rights referred to in section 248(4) above.]

Textual Amendments

- F1** Words in s. 249 heading substituted (12.1.2010) by [Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009 \(c. 20\)](#), [ss. 29\(2\)](#), 148(1)(d)
- F2** Words in s. 249(1) inserted (12.1.2010) by [Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009 \(c. 20\)](#), [ss. 29\(3\)](#), 148(1)(d)
- F3** Word in s. 249(1) substituted (30.12.2007) by [Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 \(c. 28\)](#), [ss. 74, 245](#), [Sch. 3 para. 9\(2\)](#)
- F4** Words in s. 249(2) inserted (12.1.2010) by [Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009 \(c. 20\)](#), [ss. 29\(4\)\(a\)](#), 148(1)(d)
- F5** Word in s. 249(2) substituted (30.12.2007) by [Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 \(c. 28\)](#), [ss. 74, 245](#), [Sch. 3 para. 9\(3\)](#)
- F6** Words in s. 249(2) inserted (12.1.2010) by [Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009 \(c. 20\)](#), [ss. 29\(4\)\(b\)](#), 148(1)(d)
- F7** Words in s. 249(2) inserted (12.1.2010) by [Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009 \(c. 20\)](#), [ss. 29\(4\)\(c\)](#), 148(1)(d)

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- F8** Words in s. 249(4) inserted (12.1.2010) by Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009 (c. 20), **ss. 29(5)**, 148(1)(d)
- F9** Words in s. 249(4)(b) inserted (30.4.2012) by Local Government (Wales) Measure 2011 (nawm 4), s. 178(3), **Sch. 3 para. 1(5)**; S.I. 2012/1187, art. 2(1)(q)
- F10** S. 249(4A) inserted (12.1.2010) by Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009 (c. 20), **ss. 29(6)**, 148(1)(d)
- F11** S. 249(5)-(10) substituted (12.1.2010) for s. 249(5)-(9) by Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009 (c. 20), **ss. 29(7)**, 148(1)(d)

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

- C1** S. 249 modified (3.4.1995) by 1994 c. 19, s. 66(7), **Sch. 17 para. 22(2)** (with ss. 54(5)(7), 55(5), Sch. 17 para. 22(1), 23(2)); S.I. 1995/852, art. 9(1), **Sch. 5**
S. 249 extended (11.3.1996) by S.I. 1996/330, **arts. 1(2)**, 6(1)
S. 249: functions of local authority not to be responsibility of an executive of the authority (E.) (16.11.2000) by virtue of S.I. 2000/2853, reg. 2(1), **Sch. 1**
- C2** S. 249 modified (26.11.2018) by The Local Government (Boundary Changes) Regulations 2018 (S.I. 2018/1128), regs. 1(1), **30(1)** (with reg. 1(2)(3))
- C3** S. 249(1) applied (with modifications)(11.3.1996) by S.I. 1996/330, **arts. 1(2)**, 6(2)
- C4** S. 249(1) modified (28.11.2008) by The Local Government (Structural Changes) (Transitional Arrangements) (No.2) Regulations 2008 (S.I. 2008/2867), **reg. 32** (with reg. 1)
- C5** S. 249(2)(4) modified (11.3.1996) by S.I. 1996/330, **arts. 1(2)**, 6(3)
- C6** S. 249(2)(4) modified (28.11.2008) by The Local Government (Structural Changes) (Transitional Arrangements) (No.2) Regulations 2008 (S.I. 2008/2867), **reg. 32** (with reg. 1)

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Changes and effects yet to be applied to the whole Act associated Parts and Chapters:

Whole provisions yet to be inserted into this Act (including any effects on those provisions):

- s. 80(3B) omitted by [2021 asc 1 Sch. 2 para. 1\(3\)\(c\)](#)
- s. 101(6ZA) inserted by [2023 c. 55 Sch. 12 para. 2](#)
- s. 123(2C) inserted by [2023 c. 55 s. 75](#)
- s. 131(2)(n) and word inserted by [2023 asc 3 Sch. 13 para. 16](#)