



Item 6a

16<sup>th</sup> March 2022 Full Council

APPENDIX B

**CO-OPTION ELIGIBILITY FORM- LANGFIELD WARD**

**Section 79 of the Local Government Act 1972**

- Are you a British subject or citizen of the Commonwealth or citizen of the European Union **YES/NO**
- As at the time of application are you 18 years of age or over? **YES/NO**

Under Section 80 of the Local Government Act 1972 a person is **disqualified** from being elected as a Local Councillor or being a member of a Local Council if specific criteria are not met:

- a) Are you an employee of Todmorden Town Council? **YES/NO**
- b) Are you the subject of a bankruptcy restrictions order or interim order? **YES/NO**
- c) Have you within the last five years been convicted of an offence in the UK, Channel Islands or Isle of Man which resulted in a sentence of imprisonment (whether suspended or not) for a period of three months or more without the option of a fine; **YES/NO**
- d) Are you disqualified by order of a court from being a member of a local authority? **YES/NO**

**DECLARATION**

I, Susan Mary Press, hereby confirm that I am eligible for the vacancy of Todmorden Town Councillor, and the information given on this form is a true and accurate record.

**Signed:** S M Press

**Print:** SUSAN MARY PRESS

**Date:** 08/2/2022



## APPENDIX C

### TODMORDEN TOWN COUNCIL – LANGFIELD WARD

#### CO-OPTION APPLICATION FORM

**Please tell us something about skills you can bring to the Council, for example; professional qualifications, financial or project management expertise (*please continue on an additional page if required*).**

*I have almost 20 years' experience of local government as an elected representative. I was first elected as a Town Councillor in 2003 when I stood for Fairfield ward of Hebden Royd Town Council which I represented until 2015. In that time I was also Mayor of Hebden Royd 2008/9, Chair of the Council and chaired numerous Committees including the Picture House Committee which oversaw the asset transfer of Hebden Bridge Picture House. I also chaired the Community Grants Committee working with local groups and facilitating many projects helping improve facilities at Calder Holmes Park . In 2014 I was elected as Todmorden ward Councillor for Calderdale MBC for which I am currently still an elected member. I was Cabinet member for Communities from 2016-2020 and responsible for a range of public services including libraries, parks ( including Centre Vale ) , waste and recycling, cultural services, and helping vulnerable groups access benefits advice while chairing Calderdale's Anti Poverty strategy. I was also co-chair of the Community Safety Partnership working with police and the probation service on road safety and ASB initiatives. As a Calderdale councillor for Todmorden, I was also Chair of Todmorden Development Board ( precursor to the current Town Deal Board) for two years working with other ward councillors, Calderdale officers and members of the community on regeneration projects to revitalise the centre of the town including the outdoor market, Rose Street and town centre . I am currently Chair of Calderdale's Town Hall Working Group, which in partnership with the Town Council and Calderdale's senior officers has successfully headed up the work to regenerate the Town Hall which has seen the refurbishment of the main ballroom and is now moving on to its next phase. At present I am also a member of the West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority and Deputy Chair of its Human Resources Committee. I am a Director of the Old Library community building in Cornholme*

*By profession I am a journalist with almost 40 years' experience of writing for national and regional newspapers – often on local government matters - and have worked in public relations for a range of clients including Manchester City Council , the Royal Exchange Theatre Company and Manchester University. I am used to dealing with diverse communities, have good communication and IT skills, much experience of chairing meetings and public speaking and - most importantly - the issues which matter to the people of Todmorden.*

**Please explain why you are interested in becoming a Town Councillor**

*I am standing down from Calderdale MBC in May 2022 because I want to take things a little easier but not so much that I do not wish to carry on what has been a long-term commitment to public service. I am keen to continue contributing to the long-term future of the town and improving the lives of the people of Todmorden as much as I can. I also already know and work with Town Council colleagues and community groups in a formal and informal capacity and believe I can further the work of the Town Council using my many years of experience and in-depth knowledge of local government and economic/ social issues in the Borough. I believe I still have a lot to contribute in the years to come . On a more practical note I also actually live in the Langfield ward at 2 Lock Street, Shade to which I moved in 2017 after 20 years in Hebden Bridge and am committed to staying in Todmorden.*

**Please include any other information you would like to add in support of your application? (please continue on an additional page if required)**

*Aside from being an elected Labour member I have long been involved in the wider arena of community service and voluntary work . I volunteered at Oxfam in Hebden Bridge from 2005 to 2019. I was also one of the first tranche of volunteers at St Mary's Food Drop-In in Todmorden and volunteered there most Saturdays from 2013 to 2021 often helping users including homeless people with advice and signposting . As a Trustee of Cornholme Old Library since 2015 I have recently helped set up a new volunteer-led project running a Food Bank and other community projects in partnership with Calder Community Cares and Healthy Minds . We have been really successful in building a team of committed people and are hoping to expand our work in a part of Todmorden where people often feel isolated and forgotten. For the past 18 months or so I have also volunteered two afternoons a week at the Overgate Hospice shop in Todmorden and it is a great way to meet people and share community concerns.*

*I suppose the common thread throughout all my years of activity – political and community focussed – is that I have always believed you have to give back something to society and use whatever talents and skills you may have been given not just for self-advancement but for the greater good. Town Councils play a unique role in being perhaps the closest link people have with local government – not distant and bureaucratic as many larger strands of government are perceived to be - but right at the heart of things. Their budgets may be small but there is so much they can do at grassroots level. Making a positive contribution to the community was what I enjoyed most during my time at HRTC and it would be an honour to do the same for Todmorden Town Council.*

**Are there any questions you would like to ask the Town Council?**

**Signed:**            ...S M Press .....

**Print:**             Susan Press .....

**Date:**             ...08/02/2022 .....