

Gloucester City Council

Meeting:	Council	Date:	24 March 2016
Subject:	Appointment of Honorary Recorder		
Report Of:	Leader of the Council		
Wards Affected:	All		
Key Decision:	No	Budget/Policy Framework:	No
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Appendices:	None		

FOR GENERAL RELEASE

1.0 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 This report proposes that Gloucester City Council appoint to the role of Honorary Recorder for Gloucester and that the appointment of Judge Jamie Tabor to the role be approved.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 Council is asked to **RESOLVE** that Judge Jamie Tabor be appointed to the role of Honorary Recorder for Gloucester during his tenure as Resident Judge at Gloucester Crown Court.

3.0 Background and Key Issues

- 3.1 An Honorary Recorder is an unpaid, ceremonial office created to maintain and develop close links between councils and the judiciary, and to encourage an understanding of the judicial system among the community. The functions of Honorary Recorder include attending ceremonial and civic functions, and inviting Members of the Council to attend judicial events. The Lord Chief Justice is keen for Councils to use the power available to them to make such an appointment.
- 3.2 The role of Honorary Recorder is normally reserved to Senior Circuit Judges or Resident Judges. The usual approach is for the position to be attached to a specific judge, continuing for as long as they remain the Senior Circuit or Resident Judge for the area.
- 3.3 Judge Jamie Tabor is the Resident Judge at Gloucester Crown Court and is best placed to be appointed to the role of Honorary Recorder for Gloucester.
- 3.4 On behalf of the Council, the Leader of the Council approached Judge Tabor to seek an indication of his interest in the role and he has indicated that he would accept the appointment.

3.2 The appointment of Honorary Recorders is in the sole gift of local authorities, however, the Lord Chief Justice's Guidelines for the appointment of Honorary Recorders requests that Councils consult the Senior Presiding Judge for England and Wales prior to making an appointment. The Democratic and Electoral Services Manager wrote to Lord Justice Fulford on behalf of the Council and he has confirmed that he approves of the Council's proposal to appoint Judge Tabor to the role of Honorary Recorder for Gloucester.

4.0 Asset Based Community Development (ABCD) Considerations

4.1 There are no ABCD implications, however the Lord Chief Justice considers that appointing an Honorary recorder contributes to the building of strong and proud local communities.

5.0 Alternative Options Considered

5.1 The Council could decide not to appoint an Honorary Recorder, however, the City would not benefit from the positive outcomes detailed in the body of the report.

6.0 Reasons for Recommendations

6.1 To appoint an Honorary Recorder for Gloucester to formalise the relationship between the judiciary and the Council.

7.0 Future Work and Conclusions

7.1 If the appointment is approved by Council, there are no specific tasks for the Honorary Recorder. However, in recognition of the importance of the appointment, the post holder will normally be invited to attend major civic events and may occasionally be involved in hosting relevant visitors to the City.

8.0 Financial Implications

8.1 The role of Honorary Recorder is an unpaid position, therefore there are no financial implications associated with making an appointment.

(Financial Services have been consulted in the preparation this report.)

9.0 Legal Implications

9.1 Section 54 of the Courts Act 1971 gives the Council power to appoint an Honorary Recorder for Gloucester. The appointment does not require the approval of the Lord Chancellor or Lord Chief Justice.

(One Legal have been consulted in the preparation this report.)

10.0 Risk & Opportunity Management Implications

10.1 There are no risks associated with appointing an Honorary Recorder. Making an appointment provides as opportunity for strengthening the relationship between the judiciary and the Council.

11.0 People Impact Assessment (PIA):

11.1 The appointment of an Honorary Recorder is a ceremonial act therefore a PIA is not required.

12.0 Other Corporate Implications

Community Safety

12.1 Promoting the role of Judges through the appointment of an Honorary Recorder will be a positive contribution towards building strong and proud local communities. Improved liaison between the judiciary and the community, facilitated by the Council, should support crime reduction and community safety initiatives across Gloucester.

Sustainability

12.2 There are no sustainability implications.

Staffing & Trade Union

12.3 There are no staffing implications.

Background Documents:

Lord Chief Justice's Guidelines for the appointment of Honorary Recorders