

Gloucester City Council

Meeting:	Council	Date:	12 July 2018
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 appoints Judge Ian Lawrie QC to the role of Honorary Recorder for Gloucester.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 Council is asked to **RESOLVE** that

(1) Judge Ian Lawrie QC be appointed to the role of Honorary Recorder for Gloucester during his tenure as Resident Judge at Gloucester Crown Court following the retirement of Judge Jamie Tabor QC.

(2) The Council's thanks to Judge Jamie Tabor QC be placed on record.

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 On 24 March 2016 the Council made its first appointment to the role of Honorary Recorder, appointing Judge Jamie Tabor QC for the duration of his tenure as Resident Judge at Gloucester Crown Court. Judge Tabor retired from his position at

Resident Judge on 16 March 2018 and, as such, the Council now seeks to appointment a new Honorary Recorder.

- 3.4 On behalf of the Council, the Leader of the Council approached Judge Ian Lawrie QC, the new Resident Judge at Gloucester Crown Court, to seek an indication of his interest in the role and he advised that he would accept the appointment.
- 3.5 Judge Lawrie was called to the Bar in 1985 and appointed Queen's Counsel in 2011, representing the Western Circuit until 2015. He was a Recorder for 11 years and subsequently appointed as a Circuit Judge in 2015, largely based in Plymouth, prior to his appointment as Resident Judge at Gloucester Crown Court. Judge Lawrie's experience is extensive and wide-ranging.
- 3.6 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 Policy & Governance Manager wrote to Lady Justice Macur on behalf of the Council and she has confirmed that she approves of the Council's proposal to appoint Judge Lawrie 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 is a positive contribution towards building strong and proud local communities. Improved liaison between the judiciary and the community, facilitated by the Council, supports 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: None