

Title of meeting: Extraordinary Full Council

Date of meeting: 20 June 2023

Subject: Appointment of New Honorary Recorder

Report by: City Solicitor

Wards affected:

Key decision: No

Full Council decision: Yes

1. Purpose of report

This report proposes that following notification of the resident judge for Portsmouth and the Isle of Wight term expired on 31 May 2023, His Honour Judge Timothy Mousley KC as the current Honorary Recorder, that the Council retains this honorary position and appoints his successor, His Honour Judge Michael Bowes KC.

2. Recommendations

- 1) That His Honour Judge Michael Bowes KC be appointed Honorary Recorder during his tenure as Resident Judge at Portsmouth Crown Court.**
- 2) That the Lord Mayor be asked to attend a ceremony to confer the appointment on behalf the Council.**
- 3) That His Honour Judge Timothy Mousley KC be thanked for his 4 years as Honorary Recorder to the City of Portsmouth.**

3. Background

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.

Lord Chief Justice's Guidelines states that the role of Honorary Recorder is normally reserved to Senior Circuit Judges or Resident Judges and does not confer any additional rights or privileges.

The appointment of an Honorary Recorder is made by the council concerned and does not require the approval of the Lord Chancellor or the Lord Chief Justice. It is however suggested in the Lord Chief Justice's guidance that the council is to first consult the Senior Presiding Judge for England and Wales.

4. Reasons for recommendations

To continue to maintain strong links between the City and judiciary.

5. Equality impact assessment

An EIA is not deemed required for the appointment of this position.

6. Legal implications

The appointment of an Honorary Recorder under Section 54 of the Courts Act 1971 and is solely within the discretion of the Council.

7. Director of Finance's comments

No financial impact.

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Signed by: Peter Baulf

Appendices:

Appendix 1 - Lord Chief Justice's Guidelines for the appointment of Honorary Recorders

Appendix 2 - Biography His Honour Judge Michael Bowes KC

Background list of documents: Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972

The following documents disclose facts or matters, which have been relied upon to a material extent by the author in preparing this report:

| Title of document | Location |
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The recommendation(s) set out above were approved/ approved as amended/ deferred/
rejected by on

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Signed by: