

CITY COUNCIL – 16 JULY 2007

REPORT OF THE LEADER

INSTALLATION OF HONORARY RECORDER

1 SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to propose the installation of His Honour Michael Stokes QC as Honorary Recorder for the City of Nottingham.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

IT IS RECOMMENDED that in pursuance of the statutory powers derived from the Courts Act 1971 and the Local Government Act 1972, His Honour Judge Michael Stokes QC be appointed Honorary Recorder for the City of Nottingham and that Council note that a separate ceremonial reception will be taking place on a date to be confirmed.

3 BACKGROUND

3.1 In Nottingham, the position of Honorary Recorder was last held by the late Judge Arthur Robert Malcolm Ellis, who was appointed on 1 April 1974. Judge Ellis then held this position until 13 May 1991, when his retirement was announced to full Council, and since then the position has remained vacant. However, its revival represents the important link between the council, the residents of Nottingham and the courts, and further recognises an important personal contribution by way of his long and distinguished service in the administration of justice to the City provided by His Honour Judge Michael Stokes QC.

3.2 The Secretary of State for Constitutional Affairs and The Lord Chancellor, Lord Falconer, appointed His Honour Judge Michael Stokes QC to sit as a Senior Circuit Judge and Resident Judge at Nottingham Crown Court with effect from 24 April 2006. An informal approach has been made to His Honour Judge Stokes, who has indicated he would be delighted to accept the post of Honorary Recorder.

3.3 Historically, the Recorder of a city was charged with the duties of dispensing justice within the city at the Court of Quarter Session. By section 8 of the Courts Act 1971, the jurisdiction of Quarter Sessions was transferred to the Crown Court and the function of Recorder discharged by judges. The Council acknowledged the important part in the life of the City played by the judiciary and the post of Honorary Recorder was established under powers derived from section 54 of the Courts Act 1971 and by sections 245 and 246 of the Local Government Act 1972.

3.4 The role of Honorary Recorder is a purely ceremonial position, but it is regarded as an important link between the City and the Courts.

3.5 It is proposed that the ceremonial reception be held for the newly appointed Honorary Recorder on a date that is yet to be confirmed.

4 PROPOSALS

It is proposed that His Honour Michael Stokes QC be installed as the Honorary Recorder for Nottingham City.

5 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS OTHER THAN PUBLISHED WORKS OR THOSE DISCLOSING CONFIDENTIAL OR EXEMPT INFORMATION

Letters to and from His Honour Judge Michael Stokes QC

6 PUBLISHED DOCUMENTS REFERRED TO IN COMPILING REPORT

Courts Act 1971

Local Government Act 1972

Minutes of Nottingham City Council held on 1 April 1974 and 13 May 1991.

**COUNCILLOR JON COLLINS
LEADER OF THE COUNCIL**