

CITY COUNCIL – 11 JULY 2016

REPORT OF THE LEADER

APPOINTMENT OF HONORARY RECORDER

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to propose the installation of His Honour Judge Dickinson QC as Honorary Recorder for the City of Nottingham.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 To appoint His Honour Judge Dickinson QC as Honorary Recorder for the City of Nottingham under the powers in the Courts Act 1971, with the appointment starting from 8 August 2016.

3 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 In Nottingham, the position of Honorary Recorder was last held by His Honour Judge Stokes QC, who was appointed on 16 July 2007. Judge Stokes held this position until his retirement on 7 July 2016.
- 3.2 His Honour Judge Dickinson QC lives in Leicestershire. He was called to the Bar in 1981 and took Silk in 2002. He was appointed as an Assistant Recorder in 1998, as a Recorder in 2000 and as a Circuit Judge in 2012.
- 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.

4 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED IN MAKING RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 It has been practice for Nottingham City Council to consider offering the Recordership of Nottingham to the Senior Circuit Judge at Nottingham Crown Court. No other options were considered.

5 BACKGROUND (INCLUDING OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION)

- 5.1 Letters and emails to and from the Judicial Office.

6 FINANCE COMMENTS (INCLUDING IMPLICATIONS AND VALUE FOR MONEY)

6.1 The proposals in the report have no significant financial implications for the Council.

7 LEGAL AND PROCUREMENT COMMENTS (INCLUDING RISK MANAGEMENT ISSUES, AND LEGAL, CRIME AND DISORDER ACT AND PROCUREMENT IMPLICATIONS)

7.1 None.

8 EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA)

8.1 An EIA is not required because the report does not contain proposals or financial decisions.

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

9.1 None.

10 PUBLISHED DOCUMENTS REFERRED TO IN COMPILING THIS REPORT

10.1 The Courts Act 1971.

10.2 The Local Government Act 1972.

**COUNCILLOR JON COLLINS
LEADER OF THE COUNCIL**