

COUNCIL	AGENDA ITEM No. 15(a)
9 OCTOBER 2013	PUBLIC REPORT

HONORARY RECORDER OF THE CITY OF PETERBOROUGH

R E C O M M E N D A T I O N S
FROM : Chief Executive
That Council approves the appointment of an Honorary Recorder of the City to further the link between the Council and the criminal courts, and to involve the Resident Senior Judge sitting in the Crown Court in local civic affairs and events.

1. PURPOSE AND REASON FOR REPORT

- 1.1 This report presents for the consideration of Council to approve the appointment of an Honorary Recorder of the City to further the link between the Council and the criminal courts, and to involve the Resident Senior Judge sitting in the Crown Court in local civic affairs and events.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Council is asked to approve the appointment of an Honorary Recorder to strengthen the links between the city and senior Judiciary. This initiative would be welcomed, not only by Judges, both locally in Peterborough but also at the High Court and the Appeal Court in London.
- 2.2 The official position of Honorary Recorder of the City is an established role, which has the full support of the Lord Chief Justice (see attached guidelines). A number of cities around the country have already made the appointments, including both Oxford and Norwich.
- 2.3 The role of Honorary Recorder is purely ceremonial but nevertheless an important link between the city and the courts. The Honorary Recorder is invited to all major civic events for example, Annual Council, Remembrance Sunday, Mayor's Installation amongst others.
- 2.4 If passed it is suggested the position be offered to the current Resident Judge in Peterborough, His Honour Judge Madge, and that the position of Honorary Recorder would remain with the Resident Judge until such time as the appointment of his successor is required.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 There are no financial implications for the recommendation contained in the report.

4. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 There is no legal implication to this appointment but the proposed appointment is under section 54 of the Courts Act 1971. Although the approval of the Lord Chancellor or Lord Chief Justice is not required, a letter has been sent to the Senior Presiding Judge for England and Wales, Lord Gross, requesting that this proposed appointment be approved. A response has been received from Lord Gross welcoming such an appointment.

5. CONSULTATION

5.1 Consultation has been undertaken with the current serving Mayor.

6. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

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

7. APPENDICES

7.1 The Lord Chief Justice's guidelines for the appointment of Honorary Recorders.