

CONSTITUTION AND ETHICS COMMITTEE	AGENDA ITEM No. 8
17 JULY 2023	PUBLIC REPORT

Report of:	Rochelle Tapping, Director of Law and Governance and Monitoring Officer	
Cabinet Member(s) responsible:	Councillor Andy Coles, Cabinet Member for Legal, Finance and Corporate Services	
Contact Officer(s):	Rachel Edwards, Head of Constitutional Services Susan Proctor, Executive and Members Services Manager	Tel. 452277

APPOINTMENT OF THE HONORARY RECORDER OF THE CITY OF PETERBOROUGH

RECOMMENDATIONS	
FROM: ROCHELLE TAPPING, DIRECTOR OF LAW AND GOVERNANCE AND MONITORING OFFICER	Deadline date: N/A
<p>It is recommended that the Constitution and Ethics Committee:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. recommends to Full Council the appointment of His Honour Judge Bishop as the Honorary Recorder of the City of Peterborough. 	

1. ORIGIN OF REPORT

- 1.1 This report was requested by the Chief Executive and the Director of Law and Governance and Monitoring Officer to invest further links between the Council and the criminal courts.

2. PURPOSE AND REASON FOR REPORT

- 2.1 The purpose of this report is for the Constitution and Ethics Committee to consider a recommendation to Full Council for the appointment of an Honorary Recorder of the City of Peterborough.

- 2.2 This report is for the Constitution and Ethics Committee to consider under its Terms of Reference No. 2.7.2.1

Authority to oversee the operation of the Council's Constitution and authority to make recommendations to Full Council as to amendments and improvements to the Council's Constitution (including the codes and protocols) subject to the receipt and consideration of a report prepared by the Monitoring Officer, with the exception of those matters under the remit of the Executive.

It is anticipated that this will improve relationships between the Council and the Courts.

3. TIMESCALES

Is this a Major Policy Item/Statutory Plan?	NO	If yes, date for Cabinet meeting	N/A
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4. BACKGROUND AND KEY ISSUES

- 4.1 An Honorary Recorder is an unpaid, ceremonial office which was created to maintain and develop close links between councils and the judiciary. The role of Honorary Recorder for an area is usually granted to the Resident Judge at the Crown Court in the area. The report is proposing that the Constitution and Ethics Committee recommends to Full Council the appointment of HHJ John Bishop who is the resident judge for the City of Peterborough to this role.
- 4.2 The Honorary Recorder would usually be invited to major civic events eg Annual Council Remembrance Sunday and would invite members of the Council to attend judicial events. The honorary role is personal to the individual and would last as long as HHJ John Bishop is in post as Resident Judge in Peterborough. Several cities around the Country have already made appointments, including Oxford and Preston.
- 4.3 The Lord Chief Justice's guidelines for the appointment of honorary recorders state that approval of the Lord Chancellor or the Lord Chief Justice is not required however they do recommend that councils should first consult the Senior Presiding Judge for England and Wales. We have written consulted the Senior Presiding Judge who has confirmed in a letter dated 4 July 2023 that he approves of the proposed appointment.

5. CORPORATE PRIORITIES

- 5.1 The recommendations link to the Sustainable Future City Council Corporate Priorities and recognises the hard work and dedication of the nominees.

6. CONSULTATION

- 6.1 Consultation with Group Leaders has been undertaken.

7. ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES OR IMPACT

- 7.1 It is anticipated that if the Committee recommends this to Full Council the appointment will then be made at a future Council meeting. The Honorary Recorder will then be invited to major civic events.

8. IMPLICATIONS

Financial Implications

- 8.1 None.

Legal Implications

- 8.2 The Council is the sole body who can appoint the Honorary Recorder and has powers under section 54 of the Courts Act 1971 to do this. The decision would be a decision of Full Council. Whilst the Lord Chief Justice's guidelines for the appointment of honorary recorders state that approval of the Lord Chancellor or the Lord Chief Justice is not required, they do recommend that councils should first consult the Senior Presiding Judge for England and Wales. Consultation has been undertaken and the Senior Presiding Judge has confirmed in a letter dated 4 July 2023 his approval of the proposed appointment.

Equalities Implications

8.3 None.

9. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Used to prepare this report, in accordance with the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

9.1 The Lord Chief Justices Guidelines for the appointment of Honorary Recorder.

10. APPENDICES

10.1 None.

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