

Honorary Recorder 16 March 2022

Report of Chief Executive

PURPOSE OF REPORT

To obtain the approval of the City Council for the appointment of His Honour Judge John Altham as the Honorary Recorder of Lancaster, at Annual Council in May 2022.

This report is public.

RECOMMENDATION

That His Honour Judge John Altham be appointed Honorary Recorder of Lancaster at the Annual Meeting of the City Council scheduled for 16 May 2022.

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 As part of the Golden Jubilee Celebrations of the City in 1987, the City of Lancaster appointed His Honour Judge Sir Sanderson Temple MBE QC as the first Honorary Recorder of Lancaster.
- 1.2 Following Judge Temple's death in 2000, the Council then appointed Judge Anthony Proctor as his replacement. Judge Proctor resigned the position in 2005 and His Honour Judge Phillip Sycamore was appointed. Judge Phillip Sycamore has now retired from the role.

2.0 Proposal Details

- 2.1 His Honour Judge John Altham is a Senior Circuit Judge based at Preston Combined Courts Centre and was born in Lancashire. Judge Altham is the Honorary Recorder for City of Preston and has indicated that he is happy to take up the position of Honorary Recorder for Lancaster, should the Council agree to his appointment.
- 2.3 If the appointment of Judge Altham is approved by the Council, his Court commitments would remain his priority and his Honorary commitments to the City would fit around these, which is the usual practice. The Honorary Recorder usually attends Annual Council (by invitation of the Mayor), Mayor's Sunday (where they take a part in the Service) and usually attends the Shield Hanging Ceremony at the invitation of the incoming High Sheriff each year. There may be other events to which the Honorary Recorder is invited but it would be a personal decision to attend.

3.0 Support for the Appointment

- 3.1 The City Council has received a letter of support for the appointment of His Honour Judge Altham as Honorary Recorder from the Senior Presiding Judge for England and Wales, the Rt Hon Lord Justice Haddon-Cave.

4.0 Options and Options Analysis (including risk assessment)

- 4.1 Option 1 – That the City Council agree to the appointment of His Honour Judge John Altham as Honorary Recorder of Lancaster at the Annual Council Meeting in May 2022.
- 4.2 Option 2 – That the City Council decline to agree to the appointment of His Honour Judge John Altham and identify an alternative candidate for the position.
- 4.3 Option 3 – That the City Council declines to appoint an Honorary Recorder at this time and that the post remains vacant.

5.0 Conclusion

- 5.1 Although a relatively new position in the history of this City, it would seem appropriate to appoint a person to the position of Honorary Recorder who has a wish to see this new tradition for the City maintained. Judge Altham meets these criteria and has the willingness to demonstrate his commitment to the City of Lancaster by taking this post if agreed by the City Council.

CONCLUSION OF IMPACT ASSESSMENT

(including Diversity, Human Rights, Community Safety, Sustainability and Rural Proofing)

None.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

His Honour Judge John Altham been advised that as this is an Honorary position, no expenses for his attendance at events will be paid. The cost of his attendance at established Civic Events can be met from within existing budgets.

SECTION 151 OFFICER'S COMMENTS

The Section 151 Officer has been consulted and has no further comments.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Section 54 of the Courts Act 1971 gives the council power to appoint His Honour Judge John Altham as Honorary Recorder of Lancaster.

MONITORING OFFICER'S COMMENTS

The Monitoring Officer has been consulted and has no further comments.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Letter from The Rt Hon Lord Justice Haddon-Cave to the Chief Executive dated 15/12/21

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