
EXCERPT FROM THE MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE HELD ON 22 NOVEMBER 2011

**EX.161/11 APPOINTMENT OF HONORARY RECORDER FOR THE CITY OF
CARLISLE**
(Non Key Decision)

Portfolio Leader

Subject Matter

The Assistant Director (Governance) submitted report GD.66/11 concerning the appointment of an Honorary Recorder for the City of Carlisle.

He informed Members that the City Council had the power to appoint a Circuit Judge or a Recorder of the Crown Court as Honorary Recorder for its administrative area. It had been the practice of most large City Councils, including Carlisle, to appoint the Resident Judge to be Honorary Recorder of the City during his tenure of office, thereby continuing the link between the City and its criminal court which had existed throughout the history of the Courts of Quarter Sessions. He added that the Lord Chief Justice had published guidelines in relation to the appointment and was keen to encourage cities without such an appointment to duly appoint an Honorary Recorder.

Carlisle's last Honorary Recorder (Judge A W Bell) was installed in 1990 and that lasted until 1998. Judge Bell was the first person to hold the post since 1986 and prior to that there had not been an Honorary Recorder since 1971. However, up to that point, there had been a more or less unbroken chain of Honorary Recorders since 1617.

The Assistant Director (Governance) stated that the role of Honorary Recorder was essentially a civic and ceremonial one in which he/she was involved in all Civic Processions and events. It was, however, felt that Carlisle's Honorary Recorder could play a much more significant role in the life of the City and with the City Council itself. There was an opportunity for the important role of the Judiciary to be brought into the fabric of the lives of local people, with the recorder being identified with a sense of belonging and local pride; in other words Carlisle's "own" judge. The Honorary Recorder also provided a very useful contact point for the City Council and other public organisations to access the Judiciary in a more open and informal way.

In conclusion, the Assistant Director (Governance) invited the Executive to consider recommending that the Council invite His Honour Judge Paul Batty QC to be appointed as Honorary Recorder for the City of Carlisle during his tenure in the Office as Resident Judge for Carlisle.

The Leader moved the recommendations detailed within the Assistant Director's report.

Summary of options rejected None

DECISION

That the Executive recommended to Council that:

1. His Honour Judge Paul Batty QC be invited to be appointed as Honorary Recorder for the City of Carlisle during his tenure in the Office of Resident Judge for Carlisle;
2. On the acceptance of such an offer, a Special Council Meeting be arranged on a suitable date for the appointment by the Council of the City of Carlisle of Judge Batty QC as Honorary Recorder.

Reasons for Decision

To appoint an Honorary Recorder for the City of Carlisle.