



REPORT TO EXECUTIVE

PORTFOLIO AREA: LEADER

Date of Meeting: 22 November 2011

Public

Key Decision: No

Recorded in Forward Plan:

No

Inside Policy Framework

Title: **APPOINTMENT OF HONORARY RECORDER FOR THE CITY OF CARLISLE**

Report of: **Assistant Director (Governance)**

Report reference: **GD66/11**

Summary:

The Report recommends the appointment of His Honour Judge Paul Batty QC as Honorary Recorder for the City of Carlisle.

Recommendations:

That the Executive recommend 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.

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Note: in compliance with section 100d of the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 the report has been prepared in part from the following papers: None

1. BACKGROUND INFORMATION AND OPTIONS

- 1.1 The City Council has the power to appoint a Circuit Judge or a Recorder of the Crown Court as Honorary Recorder for its administrative area. It has 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 (these were abolished by the Courts Act 1971 but the power to appoint remains).
- 1.2 The continuing relationship, and the involvement of the City's senior resident judge in civic affairs and events, has been found to be valuable and is generally enjoyed and appreciated by people on both the civic and judicial sides of the arrangement.
- 1.3 The Lord Chief Justice has published guidelines in relation to the appointment and is keen to encourage cities without such an appointment to duly appoint an Honorary Recorder. Such an appointment is made by the City Council and does not require the approval of the Lord Chancellor or the Lord Chief Justice but it is advised that the Senior Presiding Judge for England & Wales should be consulted. The President of Her Majesty's Courts for North West England, Judge Irwin, has indicated his support for the appointment of Judge Batty as Honorary Recorder. The Senior Presiding Judge for England & Wales has been consulted in accordance with the Guidance and has indicated that he is supportive of the proposal.
- 1.4 Carlisle's last Honorary Recorder, Judge A W Bell, was installed in 1990 and this 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.
- 1.5 The role of Honorary Recorder is essentially a civic and ceremonial one in which he/she is involved in all Civic Processions and events. However, it is felt that there is a much more significant role that Carlisle's Honorary Recorder can play in the life of the City and with the City Council itself. It brings 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 provides a very useful contact point for the City Council and other public organisations to access the Judiciary in a more open and informal way. This, in itself, can help to address some of the barriers which can often inhibit good and strong relationships between the Courts and the other organisations in the public sector (not to say that this is in any way the

case in Carlisle). The Judge himself may get to wear different coloured robes whilst sitting as a Judge in Carlisle.

- 1.6 HH Judge Batty QC was born in 1953 and was educated at St Aidan's Grammar School in Sunderland and then read law at Newcastle University. He was called to the Bar in 1975 and became a leading QC in the North of England. Judge Batty became an Assistant Recorder in 1991, a Recorder in 1994, has been a Circuit Judge since 2003 and Resident Judge in Carlisle for eight years. He lives in the area with his wife Angela.

2. CONSULTATION

- 2.1 The Group Leaders have been consulted and are supportive of the proposal.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Executive recommend 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 as 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.

4. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

To appoint an Honorary Recorder for the City of Carlisle.

5. IMPLICATIONS

- Staffing/Resources – Staff resources will be needed to arrange the appointment ceremony.
- Financial – Matters arising from this Report will be met from within existing resources.
- Legal – The Report has been written by the Council's Assistant Director (Governance) and comments are included therein as appropriate.

- Corporate – The appointment of Honorary Recorder is an important role from a corporate perspective for the reasons outlined in the Report.
- Risk Management – N/A
- Environmental – N/A
- Crime and Disorder – The Resident Judge plays a significant role in dealing with Crime and Disorder but the appointment as Honorary Recorder will not impact upon this.
- Impact on Customers – none
- Equality and Diversity –

Impact assessments

Does the change have an impact on the following?

Equality Impact Screening	Impact Yes/No?	Is the impact positive or negative?
Does the policy/service impact on the following?		
Age	No	
Disability	No	
Race	No	
Gender/ Transgender	No	
Sexual Orientation	No	
Religion or belief	No	
Human Rights	No	
Health inequalities	No	
Rurality	No	

If you consider there is either no impact or no negative impact, please give reasons:

....The appointment is largely symbolic and ceremonial and does not effect any equality matters.....

If an equality Impact is necessary, please contact the P&P team.