

Report to Council
Ward(s) affected: n/a
Report of: Managing Director
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Date: 25 July 2017

Appointment of Honorary Recorder

Recommendation:

- (1) To appoint His Honour Judge Robert Fraser MVO, Resident Judge at Guildford Crown Court, as the Honorary Recorder for the Borough of Guildford, with such appointment taking effect immediately.
- (2) To record the Council's appreciation for the service of His Honour Judge Christopher Critchlow DL as the Honorary Recorder from October 2010 to date.

Reason for Recommendation:

To maintain the historic appointment of an Honorary Recorder for the Borough.

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 Following the formal retirement of His Honour Judge Christopher Critchlow DL as a Circuit Judge (and Resident Judge at Guildford Crown Court) on 9 July 2016, the Council is requested to consider the appointment of His Honour Robert Fraser MVO, who is Judge Critchlow's successor as Resident Judge, as the Honorary Recorder for the Borough of Guildford.

2. Background

- 2.1 Over a period of many centuries, a Recorder was appointed as the presiding Judge for Guildford Quarter Sessions. Over the years, many notable Queen's/King's Counsel had held the position of Recorder of Guildford, including Sir Edward Marshall Hall, James Cassells and Derek Curtis-Bennett.
- 2.2 Quarter Sessions were abolished in 1972, but the former Borough Council decided to exercise the power under Section 54 of the Courts Act 1971 to appoint an Honorary Recorder of Guildford.
- 2.3 His Honour Judge Richard Vick was the first appointee to the post and held the position until his death in 1997. In May 1998, the Council appointed His

Honour Judge John Bull QC DL, the then Resident Judge of Guildford Crown Court, to the post, a position he held until October 2010, when His Honour Judge Christopher Critchlow's appointment as Honorary Recorder came into effect.

- 2.4 His Honour Judge Fraser was first appointed by the Lord Chancellor as a Recorder in the Crown Court in 2001, and then as a Circuit Judge in November 2007, following a distinguished 30 year career in the Royal Navy culminating as a Commodore and director in the Naval Legal Services.

3. The Office of Honorary Recorder

- 3.1 The office of Honorary Recorder is purely an honorary role and does not entail the post-holder in any specific duties although the Recorder usually attends and is involved with civic ceremonial events such as the Annual Council meeting, Remembrance Services, etc.

4. Financial Implications

- 4.1 Other than the cost of a small gift to be presented to His Honour Judge Critchlow to mark his service as Honorary Recorder, which will be presented to him at the October Council meeting as he is unfortunately unable to attend this meeting, which can be met from existing budgets, there are no financial implications associated with this proposal.

5. Legal Implications

- 5.1 The Council is empowered by Section 54 of the Courts Act 1971 to appoint an Honorary Recorder.

6. Human Resource Implications

- 6.1 There are no human resource implications associated with this proposal.

7. Background papers

None

8. Appendices

None