

Manchester City Council Report for Resolution

Report to: Executive – 29 July 2020
Subject: Honorary Recorder to the City
Report of: Chief Executive

Summary

To inform Members of the retirement of His Honour Judge David Andrew Stockdale QC, the Senior Judge at Manchester Crown Court and Honorary Recorder of the City and to seek Member's guidance regarding the position of the Honorary Recorder.

Recommendations

1. That the City Council place on record its sincere appreciation of the services of His Honour Judge David Andrew Stockdale QC, as Honorary Recorder of the City from 20 November 2013 to 21 March 2020.
 2. That the new Senior Judge at Manchester, His Honour Judge Nicholas Dean QC, be appointed to the office of Honorary Recorder of the City.
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Wards Affected None directly

Financial Consequences – Revenue

Cost of new Honorary Recorder robes to be used for civic ceremonies.

Financial Consequences – Capital

None

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Background documents (available for public inspection):

The following documents disclose important facts on which the report is based and have been relied upon in preparing the report. Copies of the background documents are available up to 4 years after the date of the meeting. If you would like a copy please contact one of the contact officers above.

1. Letter from the Judicial Office dated 25 June 2020;
2. The Lord Chief Justice's Guidelines for the appointment of Honorary Recorders.

1.0 Background

- 1.1 The Courts Act 1971 empowers the City to appoint a Court Recorder or a Circuit Judge to be the Honorary Recorder of the City. The appointment of an Honorary Recorder for Manchester is recognition of the status of the City as a major legal centre.
- 1.2 The City Council has always exercised its power under the Act and invited the Senior Judge of the Manchester Crown Court to be Honorary Recorder.
- 1.3 The role of the Honorary Recorder is largely a ceremonial one and involves the Honorary Recorder being present on principal civic occasions such as Lord Mayor's Sunday, Remembrance Day etc.
- 1.4 His Honour Judge David Andrew Stockdale QC, was appointed by the Lord Chancellor to be the Senior Judge at Manchester Crown Court in 2013 and the City Council then invited him to be Honorary Recorder of the City. After seven years of service in this role, he has now retired as the Senior Judge at Manchester Crown Court.
- 1.5 We have now been informed that The Lord Chancellor has appointed His Honour Judge Nicholas Dean, to be Senior Judge at Manchester Crown Court with effect from 6 July 2020. Members are requested to consider appointing His Honour Judge Nicholas Dean QC as Honorary Recorder for Manchester.

2.0 Recommendation:

- 2.1 The Executive is asked to place on record its sincere appreciation of the services of His Honour Judge David Andrew Stockdale QC as Honorary Recorder since 2013 and for his consistent and enthusiastic support for the City during that time.
- 2.2 In the interest of maintaining the close ties between the Civil authorities and the Courts the Executive is asked to appoint the new Senior Judge, His Honour Judge Nicholas Dean QC, to the office of Honorary Recorder of the City.