



**NORTHAMPTON**  
BOROUGH COUNCIL

# **COUNCIL**

**Monday: 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2018**

**Agenda Status: Public**

**Directorate: Borough Secretary and  
Monitoring Officer**

<b>Report Title</b>	<b>Appointment of Honorary Recorder for Northampton Borough Council</b>
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## **1. Purpose**

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- 1.1 To consider the appointment of His Honour Judge Rupert Mayo, Resident Judge at Northampton Crown Court, as the Honorary Recorder for the Borough of Northampton.
- 1.2 To honour the historic appointment of an Honorary Recorder for the Borough.

## **2. Recommendations**

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- 2.1 That Council approves the appointment of HHJ Mayo as Honorary Recorder for Northampton Borough Council

## **3. Issues and Choices**

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### **3.1 Report Background**

- 3.1.1 The Lord Chief Justice's Guidelines for the appointment of Honorary Recorders expressly reflect the fact that, since the implementation of the Courts Act 1971 and the establishment of the Crown Court for England and Wales, the councils of Borough of England & Wales have had the power to appoint a Circuit Judge as Honorary Recorder of the borough concerned. It has been the invariable practice of larger councils to appoint their Resident Judge to be Honorary Recorder of the town or city during their tenure of the office, thereby continuing the important link between the Town and its Criminal Court which had existed throughout the history of the Courts of Quarter Sessions which were abolished by that act.
- 3.1.2 The last Honorary Recorder of Northampton was His Honour Judge Philip Cox QC. He has been Chairman of Quarter Sessions and thus known as the

Recorder of Northampton. He received the title of Honorary Recorder when the Quarter Session and Assizes were abolished in 1971. He retained that title for 42 years until his death in November 2014.

### **3.2 Issues**

3.2.1 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 and Remembrance Services.

### **3.3 Choices (Options)**

3.3.1 The only option is whether or not Council wish to appoint His Honour Judge Rupert Mayo as Honorary Recorder

## **4. Implications (including financial implications)**

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### **4.1 Policy**

4.1.1 Under Section 54 of the Courts Act 1971, the Council of a Borough shall have power to appoint a person to be honorary recorder of the borough. A person shall not be qualified to hold office as an honorary recorder of the Borough unless he is a Circuit Judge or Recorder (that is say a Recorder appointed under this Act): Provided that this subsection shall not apply to a Borough which immediately before the appointed day –

(a) Had power by charter to appoint a recorder of the borough, and

(b) Did not have separate quarter sessions

### **4.2 Resources and Risk**

4.2.1 Initial cost incurred for civic ceremony to appoint new Honorary Recorder. Cost to come from civic budget. Ceremony to be held in Guildhall, no charge for room hire, buffet provided by in house caterers between £10 - £15pp including arrival drinks.

4.2.2 Ongoing cost will include a scroll to be presented to the appointed Honorary Recorder

4.2.3 Costs can be met through the civic budget

4.2.4 If the appointment is made this year then there may be an overspend on the budget as this year we will be marking the Centenary of WW1 which will likely be higher than the usual spend for Remembrance.

### **4.3 Legal**

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

#### **4.4 Equality and Health**

4.4.1 There are no such implications for Equality and Health in this report

#### **4.5 Consultees (Internal and External)**

4.5.1 The Leader of the Council, the present Chief Executive and Monitoring Officer and Borough Secretary.

#### **4.6 How the Proposals deliver Priority Outcomes**

4.6.1 Priority 3 – Celebrating our heritage and culture  
The post would emphasise the historic heritage of the Borough and give recognition to the role of judges in creating a safe and secure environment in our town. [http://www.northampton.gov.uk/downloads/file/5784/2012-15\\_corporate\\_plan\\_update\\_2013](http://www.northampton.gov.uk/downloads/file/5784/2012-15_corporate_plan_update_2013)

#### **4.7 Other Implications**

4.7.1 None

#### **5. Background Papers**

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5.1 Section 54 of the Courts Act 1971 –  
<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1971/23/section/54>

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