

To: Council – 29<sup>th</sup> September 2014

Item No:

Report of: Head of Law and Governance

Title of Report: HONORARY RECORDER - APPOINTMENT

## Summary and Recommendations

**Purpose of report:** To advise Council about the position of Honorary Recorder and to invite Council to appoint the Resident Judge at the Crown Court as Honorary Recorder in place of His Honour Judge Gordon Risius CB who stands down from his appointment as Resident Judge on 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2014.

**Policy Framework:** Not applicable

### **Recommendation(s):**

Council is **RECOMMENDED** to:-

- (a) Appoint His Honour Judge Ian Pringle QC to the post of Honorary Recorder of Oxford for as long as he holds the position of resident Judge at the Crown Court;
- (b) Thank His Honour Judge Gordon Risius CB for his services as Honorary Recorder.

1. Before the abolition of Courts of Quarter Sessions by the Courts Act 1971 the City Council as a borough council appointed a Recorder. The Recorder was the presiding judge at the City's Quarter Sessions.
2. When the Court Assize and Quarter Sessions were abolished under the Courts Act 1971 and replaced by the present system of Crown Courts and Recorders, former borough councils were given the power (Section 245 and 246, Local Government Act 1972) to appoint honorary recorders. The Honorary Recorder is the resident Judge at the Crown Court. The resident Judge usually holds office for one or two four year terms.

3. The role of Honorary Recorder is purely ceremonial but the position of Honorary Recorder is nevertheless an important link between the City and the Courts. The Honorary Recorder (and former Honorary Recorders typically) is invited to the City's major civic events (e.g. Annual Council, Christmas reception, Remembrance Sunday).
4. The Secretary of State and the Lord Chancellor have appointed His Honour Judge Ian Pringle QC to the position of Resident Judge at Oxford Crown Court. Judge Gordon Risius CB was the previous Honorary Recorder having been appointed to that position by Council in 2011 for as long as he held the position of Resident Judge. Previous holders of the position are listed for interest in the annex to this report.
5. Council is being recommended to:-
  - (a) Appoint his Honour Judge Ian Pringle QC to the post of Honorary Recorder of Oxford for as long as he holds the position of resident Judge at the Crown Court;
  - (b) Thank his Honour Judge Gordon Risius CB for his services as Honorary Recorder.

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**List of background papers:** None  
**Version number:**

**Honorary Recorder – Appointment**

Details of former Honorary Recorders:-

1. 1972 to 1985 – His Honour Judge Edward Gibbens QC  
  
There was no appointment between 1985 and 1989
2. 1989 to 1993 His Honour Judge Leo Clark QC – circuit judge/resident judge at Oxford Crown Court between 1976 and 1993.
3. 1993 to 2001 – His Honour Judge Harold Wilson – circuit judge from 1981 to 2001, resident judge Oxford Crown Court and Honorary Recorder between 1993 and 2001.
4. 2001 to 2002 – His Honour Judge Peter Crawford QC - circuit judge from 1988 to 2002, resident judge Oxford Crown Court and Honorary Recorder between 2001 and 2002.
5. 2002 to 2010 – His Honour Judge Julian Hall - circuit judge from 1986 to 2010, resident judge Oxford Crown Court and Honorary Recorder between 2002 and 2010.

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