

# Extraordinary Full Council

14 March 2017



**Report of:** Shahzia Daya, Service Director – Legal and Democratic Services

**Title:** **The Appointment of Recorder of Bristol**

**Ward:** Citywide

## Recommendation

Full Council is asked to offer the Honorary Recordership of Bristol to the Senior Circuit Judge in Bristol, His Honour Judge Peter Michael Blair QC, with immediate effect.

## Summary

It has been practice for the City Council to appoint the Senior Circuit Judge at Bristol Crown Court as the Recorder of Bristol. This is an honorary position (provided for by the Courts Act 1981) which recognises the traditional association between the City Council and the administration of justice in the city.

## The significant issues in the report are:

As set out in the report.



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## Policy

1. Not applicable.

## Consultation

2. **Internal**  
Not applicable.
3. **External**  
Not applicable.

## Context

4. It has been practice for the City Council to appoint the Senior Circuit Judge at Bristol Crown Court as the Recorder of Bristol. This is an honorary position (provided for by the Courts Act 1981) which recognises the traditional association between the City Council and the administration of justice in the city.

The Lord Chief Justice of England and Wales, the Right Honourable The Lord Thomas of Cwmgiedd, appointed His Honour Judge Peter Michael Blair QC to be a Senior Circuit Judge, Resident Judge based at Bristol Crown Court with effect from 9 January 2017.

His Honour Judge Peter Michael Blair QC was called to the Bar in 1983 and took Silk in 2006. He was appointed as an Assistant Recorder in 1998, as a Recorder in 2000 and as a Circuit Judge in 2014.

## Proposal

5. Full Council is accordingly asked to offer the Honorary Recordership of Bristol to the Senior Circuit Judge in Bristol, His Honour Judge Peter Michael Blair QC, with immediate effect.

## Other Options Considered

6. Not applicable

## Risk Assessment

7. Not applicable

## Public Sector Equality Duties

- 8a) Before making a decision, section 149 Equality Act 2010 requires that each decision-maker considers the need to promote equality for persons with the following “protected characteristics”: age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation. Each decision-maker must, therefore, have due regard to the need to:

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- i) Eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct prohibited under the Equality Act 2010.
  - ii) Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not share it. This involves having due regard, in particular, to the need to --
    - remove or minimise disadvantage suffered by persons who share a relevant protected characteristic;
    - take steps to meet the needs of persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are different from the needs of people who do not share it (in relation to disabled people, this includes, in particular, steps to take account of disabled persons' disabilities);
    - encourage persons who share a protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity in which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.
  - iii) Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not share it. This involves having due regard, in particular, to the need to –
    - tackle prejudice; and
    - promote understanding.

8b) Not applicable to this report.

### **Legal and Resource Implications**

#### **Legal**

As set out in the report.

**(Legal advice provided by Shahzia Daya, Service Director – Legal and Democratic Services)**

#### **Financial**

None.

#### **Land**

None.

#### **Personnel**

None.

#### **Appendices:**

None

#### **LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985**

##### **Background Papers:**

None