



City of Westminster Council Report

Meeting or Decision Maker:	Council
Date:	15 November 2023
Classification:	General Release
Title:	Appointment of the Honorary Recorder
Fairer Westminster/Policy Context:	The post is a ceremonial office created to maintain and develop close links between councils and the judiciary, and to encourage an understanding of the judicial system among the community.
Financial Summary:	There are no financial implications for the decision sought.
Report of:	Director of Law and Governance

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 His Honour Judge Tony Baumgartner was appointed as Resident Judge at the Crown Court at Southwark with effect from 1 August 2023 following the retirement of Her Honour Judge Deborah Taylor.
- 1.2 The purpose of this report is to formally invite the Council to approve the appointment of His Honour Judge Tony Baumgartner as Honorary Recorder for the City of Westminster.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 To formally approve the appointment of His Honour Judge Tony Baumgartner as Honorary Recorder for the City of Westminster during his tenure as Resident Judge at the Crown Court at Southwark, in accordance with the Courts Act 1971.

3. Background

- 3.1 The Courts Act 1971 empowers the Council to appoint an Honorary Recorder for the City of Westminster.
- 3.2 It has been the practice in Westminster to offer the position of Honorary Recorder to the Resident Judge at the Crown Court at Southwark.
- 3.3 The Lord Chief Justice appointed His Honour Judge Tony Baumgartner as the Resident Judge at the Crown Court at Southwark with effect from 1 August 2023.
- 3.4 His Honour Judge Tony Baumgartner replaces Her Honour Judge Deborah Taylor, who retired as Honorary Recorder for the City of Westminster in December 2022.

4. Other Considerations

- 4.1 An Honorary Recorder is an unpaid, ceremonial office created to maintain and develop close links between councils and the judiciary, and to encourage an understanding of the judicial system among the community. The functions of Honorary Recorder include attending ceremonial and civic functions and inviting Members of the Council to attend judicial events. The Lord Chief Justice is keen for councils to use the power available to them to make such an appointment.

5. Financial Implications

- 5.1 There are no financial implications for the decision sought.

6. Legal Implications

- 6.1 The Council has power to appoint a person to the position of Honorary Recorder under Section 54 of the provision of the Courts Act 1971.

7. Carbon Impact

- 7.1 There are no carbon impact implications for the decision sought.

8. Equalities

- 8.1 An EIA is not deemed required for the appointment of this position.

**If you have any queries about this Report or wish to inspect any
of the Background Papers, please contact:
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