

Birmingham City Council

Report to City Council

16 September 2025



Title:	APPOINTMENT OF HONORARY RECORDER
Lead Member:	Councillor Rob Pocock, Cabinet Member for Transformation, Governance & HR
Relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee:	Not applicable.
Has this report been shared with the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee Chair?	Not applicable
Report Author:	Elaine Newsome, Interim Head of Scrutiny and Committee Services Law & Governance Elaine.newsome@birmingham.gov.uk
Authorised by:	Robert Connelly Assistant Director of Governance Law & Governance
Is this a Key Decision?	No – this is a matter for Council
Reason(s) why not included on the Forward Plan and confirm who has authorised it to be considered:	N/A
Is this a Late Report?	N/A
Reason(s) why Late and confirm who has authorised it to be considered:	N/A
Is this decision eligible for 'call in?'	No
If 'call-in' has been dis-applied, please provide reason(s) and confirm who has authorised:	N/A
Wards:	None

Does this report contain exempt or confidential information?

No

Has this decision been included on the Notification of Intention to consider Matters in Private?

No

Reasons why not included on the Notification and confirm who has authorised it to be considered:

No

1 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 The Honorary Recorder of Birmingham has traditionally been offered to the Senior Circuit Judge at Birmingham Crown Court.
- 1.2 The Council has recently been notified that His Honour Judge Andrew Smith KC has been appointed as the Senior Circuit Judge.
- 1.3 Council is requested to consider the extension of an invitation to His Honour Judge Andrew Smith KC to accept the appointment as Honorary Recorder of Birmingham during his tenure as Senior Circuit Judge at Birmingham Crown Court in accordance with the Courts Act 1971.

2 COMMISSIONERS' REVIEW

- 2.1 Commissioners have no observations in relation to this report.

3 RECOMMENDATIONS

That Council resolves:

1. To invite His Honour Judge Andrew Smith KC to accept the appointment as Honorary Recorder of Birmingham during his tenure as Senior Circuit Judge (Resident Judge) at Birmingham Crown Court, in accordance with the Courts Act 1971.
2. That the Lord Mayor make appropriate arrangements to mark the appointment.

4 KEY INFORMATION

Context

- 4.1 The Courts Act 1971 empowers the City to appoint an Honorary Recorder for Birmingham.
- 4.2 It has been the practice in Birmingham to offer the position of Honorary Recorder to the Senior Circuit Judge (Resident Judge) at Birmingham Crown Court.

- 4.3 The Lady Chief Justice has appointed His Honour Judge Andrew Smith KC as the Senior Circuit Judge (Resident Judge) at Birmingham Crown Court Centre with effect from 1st July.
- 4.4 His Honour Judge Andrew Smith was called to the Bar in 1997 and took Silk in 2012. He was appointed as a Recorder in 2009 and as a Circuit Judge in 2022.
- 4.5 His Honour Judge Smith KC replaces His Honour Judge Inman KC, who retired as Honorary Recorder of Birmingham with effect from the same date.

Proposal and Reasons for Recommendations

- 4.6 In accordance with established practice, Council is requested to consider extending an invitation to the Senior Circuit Judge to accept the appointment of Honorary Recorder for Birmingham.

Other Options Considered

- 4.7 None.

5 RISK MANAGEMENT

- 5.1 None associated with this report.

6 CONSULTATION

- 6.1 Council Business Management Committee have considered and are supportive of the Council extending the invitation.

7 MEMBER ENGAGEMENT

Ward Councillor(s)

- 7.1 N/A

Overview and Scrutiny

- 7.2 N/A

Other

- 7.3 N/A

8 IMPACT AND IMPLICATIONS

Finance and Best Value

- 8.1 There are no financial implications associated with this report.

Legal

- 8.2 The proposal is in line with the provisions established in the Courts Act 1971.

Equalities

8.3 None associated with this report.

Procurement

8.4 None associated with this report.

People Services

8.5 None associated with this report.

Climate Change, Nature and Net Zero

8.6 None associated with this report.

Corporate Parenting

8.7 None associated with this report.

Other

8.8 None associated with this report.

9 APPENDICES

9.1 None

10 BACKGROUND PAPERS

10.1 None