1. **Executive Summary**

1.1 The Lord Chief Justice is keen to establish links between the judiciary and civil life and is encouraging City and Borough Councils to consider appointing a Resident Judge of the Crown Court as Honorary Recorder of the Borough. It is considered that this will formalise the relationship between the judiciary and local authorities and establish a means of communication that will promote the role of Judges to make Redbridge safe and secure and contribute to building strong and proud local communities.

1.2 The appointee to the role of Honorary Recorder must be a serving Circuit Judge or Recorder and it is proposed that Judge Radford be appointed to the position. In accordance with the request of the Lord Chief Justice the Council has consulted the Senior Presiding Judge for England and Wales who has advised that he endorses the appointment of Judge Radford as Honorary Recorder for Redbridge.

1.3 The Officer report is attached at Appendix A.

2. **Reason For The Recommendation**

2.1 To enable the Cabinet to consider appointing an Honorary Recorder for Redbridge.

3. **Recommendation**

3.1 That the Cabinet agree that Judge Radford be appointed an Honorary Recorder of Redbridge.

THE DECISION PROPOSED IN THE RECOMMENDATION TO THIS REPORT MAY BE REQUISITIONED

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OFFICER REPORT

TO: The Leader
FROM: Borough Solicitor and Secretary
DATE: 28th April 2009

1. Background

1.1. The Lord Chief Justice is keen to establish links between the judiciary and civil life and is encouraging City and Borough Councils to consider appointing a Resident Judge of the Crown Court as Honorary Recorder of the Borough. It is considered that this will formalise the relationship between the judiciary and local authorities and establish a means of communication that will promote the role of Judges to make Redbridge safe and secure and contribute to building strong and proud local communities. The Lord Chief Justice’s Guidelines for the appointment of Honorary Recorders are a background paper to this report.

1.2. The appointee to the role of Honorary Recorder must be a serving Circuit Judge or Recorder and the Lord Chief Justice has indicated that he would be pleased if Boroughs considering making such an appointment would first consult the Senior Presiding Judge for England and Wales. It is proposed that Judge Radford be appointed Honorary Recorder of Redbridge. The Senior Presiding Judge has been consulted and supports this proposal.

1.3. At each Crown Court Centre a particular judge is appointed “Resident Judge” and leads the team of judges who sit there and provide the link between the judiciary and the administration. In larger centres the Resident Judge is usually a Senior Circuit Judge who is specifically appointed to the post. The Lord Chief Justice expresses the wish that those centres will continue to elect the Resident Judge as Honorary Recorder.

1.4. There are no specific tasks for the Honorary Recorder, although in recognition of the importance of the historic appointment the post holder is normally invited to attend major civic events and is occasionally involved in hosting relevant visits to the Borough. It is customary for an Honorary Recorder, when sitting in the Crown Court in the Borough where he/she holds that office, to be described as such in the published court lists.

2. Comments of the Borough Solicitor and Secretary

2.1 Section 54 of the Courts Act 1971 provides that “the council of a borough shall have power to appoint a person to be honorary recorder of the borough.” Any person appointed must be a circuit judge or recorder.

3. Comments of the Director of Finance and Resources

3.1 This report is requesting that Cabinet agrees the appointment of an Honorary Recorder.
3.2 There are no specific financial implications arising from the report as there are no defined tasks undertaken by the Honorary Recorder on behalf of the Council. Any costs associated with the Honorary Recorder would need to be met from existing budgetary provisions.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

The Lord Chief Justice’s Guidelines for the Appointment of Honorary Recorders

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