

Committee(s) General Purposes Committee of Aldermen Court of Aldermen	Date(s): TBC 12 May 2020
Subject: Report of Action Taken: Appointment of the Recorder of London – 21 March 2020	Public
Report of: Town Clerk	For Information
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Summary

This report advises Members of action taken by the Town Clerk, in consultation with the Chairman of the Court of Aldermen, in accordance with Standing Order No. 36 (Court of Aldermen).

Recommendation:- That Members note the decision taken in accordance with the Court of Aldermen's Standing Order No.36 to approve the appointment of His Honour Judge Mark Lucraft as the Recorder of London.

Main Report

Appointment of the Recorder of London

Background and reason for urgency:

- (i) The position of Recorder of London has been vacant since 14 November 2019 when the previous Recorder, His Honour Judge Nicholas Richard Maybury Hilliard QC, left to take up an appointment as a High Court Judge. The General Purposes Committee of Aldermen agreed the appointment process in respect of filling the vacancy on 25 October 2019.
- (ii) Following interviews on 3 and 6 March 2020, the Appointment Panel selected a preferred candidate and it was anticipated that the Committee would consider the appointment at a special meeting on 2 April 2020. Thereafter, subject to the outcome of its deliberations, the Committee was expected to make recommendation to the Court of Aldermen in respect of the appointment of the preferred candidate.
- (iii) In light of the situation arising from COVID-19, the special meetings of the General Purposes Committee of Aldermen and the Court of Aldermen on 2 April 2020 were cancelled.

- (iv) To minimise any delay to the appointment of the Recorder, the matter was considered at an informal (virtual) meeting of the General Purposes Committee of Aldermen on 19 March 2020. At the conclusion of that informal meeting, there was unanimous agreement that the preferred candidate - His Honour Judge Mark Lucraft - should be recommended for appointment as the Recorder of London, noting that the Court of Aldermen would have to approve the recommendation and the appointment would be subject to receipt of the Royal Warrant from Her Majesty the Queen in due course.
- (v) Noting that members of the Court of Aldermen were informally consulted on 19 March 2020 about the appointment of the preferred candidate, as recommended by the Appointment Panel, the appointment of His Honour Judge Mark Lucraft as the Recorder of London was formally approved in accordance with Standing Order No. 36 on 21 March 2020.
- (vi) Standing Order 36 states that: "Where in the opinion of the Town Clerk, urgent matters arise which require a decision before the next meeting of the relevant committee or the Court, the Town Clerk shall refer the matter to the relevant Chairman, or in his/her absence the Deputy Chairman or in the Deputy Chairman's absence the Senior Alderman, who shall decide whether it is necessary to call a special meeting or, alternatively, to authorise the officers to act."

Action taken:

- (vii) In accordance with Standing Order no.36, on 21 March 2020 the Lord Mayor (on behalf of the Court of Aldermen) was consulted by the Town Clerk about the appointment of His Honour Judge mark Lucraft as the Recorder of London, subject to receipt of the Royal Warrant from Her Majesty the Queen in due course. Thereafter, on the same date, the appointment was formally approved by the Town Clerk.

Conclusion:

- (viii) Members are asked to note the decision taken in accordance with the Court of Aldermen's Standing Order No.36 to approve the appointment of His Honour Judge Mark Lucraft as the Recorder of London, which was subject to receipt of the Royal Warrant from Her Majesty the Queen.
- (ix) The appointment of His Honour Judge Mark Lucraft was announced publicly on 8 April 2020, following receipt of the Royal Warrant.

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