

Lord-Lieutenant for Midlothian
Report by Hillary Kelly, Head of Customer Services**1 Purpose of Report**

This report advises Council of the appointment of a new Lord-Lieutenant for Midlothian with effect from 18 October 2013.

2 Background

- 2.1** Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenants are the representatives of the Crown for each county in the United Kingdom. Men or women of all backgrounds are appointed by The Queen on the advice of the Prime Minister. There are 98 Lord-Lieutenants, who cover all areas of the UK.

Lord-Lieutenants are responsible for the organisation of all official Royal visits to their county. On the day of an engagement they escort the Royal visitor around the different locations - not simply The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh, but any member of the Royal Family.

Lord-Lieutenants also carry out many other duties in their county, including the presentation of decorations (where the recipient is unable to attend an Investiture) e.g. British Empire Medal, as well as liaising with local units of the Royal Navy, Royal Marines, Army, Royal Air Force and their associated cadet forces.

- 2.2** Patrick Prenter CBE has intimated his resignation and formally retired from the role of Lord-Lieutenant for Midlothian, with effect from 18 October 2013. His last official engagement was to accompany the Duke of York at the Homecoming Parade for The Royal Regiment of Scotland 2SCOTS in Penicuik on 17 October 2013.

- 2.3** The Queen has been pleased to appoint Sir Robert Maxwell Clerk Bt. OBE as Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for Midlothian to succeed Mr Prenter. Formal announcement was made from the Prime Minister's office, 10 Downing Street, on 18 October 2013.

Sir Robert was born in 1945. He was educated at Winchester and London University where he graduated with a Bachelor of Science, Agriculture (B.Sc.). He was a Partner of Smiths Gore, a firm of Chartered Surveyors with offices across the UK noted for its rural property consultancy services and was invested as a Fellow, Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (FRICS). He was admitted to Royal Company of Archers. He was invested as an Officer, Order of the British Empire (OBE) in 1995.

Sir Robert's family has a very long standing connection with Midlothian, his forebears having acquired Penicuik Estate in the mid 17th century where he is now actively involved in farming.

Sir Robert has close connections with many organisations in and around Penicuik, he is a trustee of the Penicuik House Preservation Trust, Patron of the Penicuik Curling Club, Patron of the Penicuik Cricket Club, Patron of the Penicuik Civic Society and Hon. President of the Penicuik Historical Society. He is also a long standing member of the Vestry of St James the Less Episcopal Church in Penicuik

Sir Robert was appointed a Deputy Lieutenant in 1995 and as Vice Lord-Lieutenant in 2011.

3 Report Implications

3.1 Resource

There are no resource implications arising from this report.

3.2 Risk

There are no risk implications arising from this report.

3.3 Single Midlothian Plan and Business Transformation

Themes addressed in this report:

- ☐ Community safety
- ☐ Adult health, care and housing
- ☐ Getting it right for every Midlothian child
- ☐ Improving opportunities in Midlothian
- ☐ Sustainable growth
- ☐ Business transformation and Best Value
- ☒ None of the above

3.4 Impact on Performance and Outcomes

There is no impact on performance and outcomes.

3.5 Adopting a Preventative Approach

This is not relevant in terms of adopting a preventative approach.

3.6 Involving Communities and Other Stakeholders

There was no requirement to involve communities or stakeholders.

3.7 Ensuring Equalities

There are no equality implications arising from this report.

3.8 Supporting Sustainable Development

This is not relevant in terms of supporting sustainable development.

3.9 IT Issues

There are no IT implications arising directly from this report.

4 Recommendations

The Council is invited:

- a) to note the appointment of the new Lord-Lieutenant for Midlothian, Sir Robert Maxwell Clerk OBE; and

- b) to consider formally extending acknowledgement and thanks to the outgoing Lord-Lieutenant, Patrick Prenter CBE.

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