

Name of Cabinet Member:

Cabinet Member (Corporate and Neighbourhood Services) -
Councillor Townshend

10th March 2011

Director Approving Submission of the report:

Director of Customer and Workforce Services

Ward(s) affected:

None

Title:

The Coventry Award of Merit

Is this a key decision?

No

Executive Summary:

To seek approval for the establishment of a Cabinet Member (Corporate & Neighbourhood Services) Coventry Award of Merit Advisory Panel.

Recommendations:

That the Cabinet Member (Corporate & Neighbourhood Services) Coventry Award of Merit Advisory Panel, with proposed membership, be established to advise the Cabinet Member (Corporate & Neighbourhood Services) on possible recipients of the Award with regard to the Terms of Reference attached.

List of Appendices included:

Appendix 1 - List of Past Recipients

Appendix 2 - Terms of Reference of the Coventry Award of Merit

Has it or will it be considered by Scrutiny?

No

Has it, or will it be considered by any other Council Committee, Advisory Panel or other body?

No

Will this report go to Council?

No

Report title:
The Coventry Award of Merit

1. Context (or background)

- 1.1 The Coventry Award of Merit was established by the City Council in the 1960s as a means of acknowledging and honouring personal behaviour reflecting the highest ideals of citizenship or outstanding performance in any field of human endeavour which enhances the good name of Coventry and affords inspiration to its citizens.
- 1.2 The Award has previously taken the form of a citation under the common seal together with a presentation of a gold medallion pendant from a ribbon in the City's colours. The motif on the medallion is the phoenix, symbolising the resurgence of Coventry from the flames of the Blitz. The full Terms of Reference are appended to this report as well as a list of past recipients of the Award.
- 1.3 There have been no recipients of the Award since 2002. It is now proposed that the Award should be revived to recognise contributions to modern society which accord with its original high ideals.

2. Options considered and recommended proposal

- 2.1 That an Advisory Panel, with proposed membership, be established to advise the Cabinet Member (Corporate & Neighbourhood Services) on possible recipients of the Award.
- 2.2 That the following be invited to be members of the Advisory Panel:
Cabinet Member (Corporate and Neighbourhood Services)
Cabinet Member (Strategic Finance and Resources)
Shadow Cabinet Member (Corporate and Neighbourhood Services)
Chair of Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee, or her/his nominee
The Lord Mayor, ex officio
The Honorary Recorder (Elect)

3. Results of consultation undertaken

- 3.1 No formal consultation has taken place.

4. Timetable for implementing this decision

- 4.1 That the Advisory Panel be asked to meet as soon as practical to consider possible nominations for the Cabinet Member's consideration and approval at a future meeting of the Cabinet Member (Corporate & Neighbourhood Services).
- 4.2 That suitable arrangements be made in due course for an Awards Ceremony for approved recipients of the Award.

5. Comments from Director of Finance and Legal Services

5.1 Financial implications

The costs associated with the Ceremony and the Awards will be met from within the existing budget of the Lord Mayor's Hospitality Budget for the mayoral year 2010/2011.

5.2 Legal implications

There are no legal implications associated with this decision.

6. Other implications

None

6.1 How will this contribute to achievement of the Council's key objectives / corporate priorities (corporate plan/scorecard) / organisational blueprint / LAA (or Coventry SCS)?

One of the Council's key priorities is to develop a strong sense of civic pride across the city. By reviving the Award, this will give recognition to individuals or organisations that have rendered outstanding service to the city and promote civic pride.

6.2 How is risk being managed?

There is no risk associated with establishing the Advisory Panel.

6.3 What is the impact on the organisation?

None.

6.4 Equalities / EIA

There are no EIA implications.

6.5 Implications for (or impact on) the environment

None.

6.6 Implications for partner organisations?

None.

Report author(s):

Name and job title:

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Contributor/approver name	Title	Directorate or organisation	Date doc sent out	Date response received or approved
Names of approvers: (officers)				
Bev Messinger	Director	Customer & Workforce Services	3/3/11	8/3/11
Helen Abraham	Assistant Director (Democratic Services)	Customer & Workforce Services	8/3/11	9/3/11
Clarissa Evans	Manager, Commercial Team, Legal Services	Finance & Legal Services	8/3/11	9/3/11
Kathryn Sutherland	Manager, Central Services Finance	Finance & Legal Services	8/3/11	9/3/11
Claire Campbell	Human Resources Manager	Customer & Workforce Services	8/3/11	9/3/11
Usha Patel	Governance Services Officer	Customer & Workforce Services	1/3/11	2/3/11
Names of approvers for submission: (officers and members)				
Councillor Townshend	Cabinet Member (Corporate & N'hood Servs)		1/3/11	2/3/11

This report is published on the council's website:
www.coventry.gov.uk/meetings

Appendices

Appendix 1 – List of Previous Recipients

Appendix 2 – Terms of Reference

APPENDIX 1

COVENTRY AWARD OF MERIT – PREVIOUS RECIPIENTS

1966

Mr Stanley Ashby, Godiva Harriers official and former Olympic runner

Sir Donald Gibson, first Coventry Architect and Planning Officer

Professor J W Linnett FRS, Professor of Physical Chemistry at Cambridge University

Miss M R Paton MBE, Superintendent, St Faith's Shelter, Coventry City Council

Air Commodore Sir Frank Whittle KBE, Inventor of the jet engine.

1970

Mr Derrick H Robins, former President, Coventry City Football Club

Sir Basil Spence OBE, architect and designer of Coventry Cathedral

Sir William Lyons, President, Jaguar Cars-British Leyland UK Ltd

Dr H Parry Williams, former Consultant Child Specialist, Coventry Hospital Group

Mrs A L Galpine JP, former Chairman of Coventry Magistrates' and Coventry Juvenile Court

1978

Rt Revd Cuthbert Bardley CBE, Bishop of Coventry from 1956 to 1976

Professor Joan Browne CBE, JP – Principal, Coventry College of Education 1948 to 1975

Mr Jack Jones MBE, General Secretary, Transport and General Workers' Union

Mr Phillip Larkin CBE, Poet and Librarian of the University of Hull

Mr Walter Chinn OBE, Director of Education for Coventry from 1947 to 1969

Sir Stanley Harley DL, industrialist, Managing Director, Coventry Gauge and ~Tool Ltd

2002

Sir John Egan, Chairman of Jaguar Cars Limited

Professor Sir Brian Follett FRS, Vice-Chancellor, University of Warwick

Reverend Canon Nerissa Jones MBE, Vicar of St Chad's Church, Wood End

Reverend Canon Dr Paul Oestreicher, peace and reconciliation, Coventry Cathedral

Right Honourable Sir Philip Otton, Lord Justice of Appeal

Councillor Tom White CBE, first Director of Social Services in the UK

COVENTRY AWARD OF MERIT – TERMS OF REFERENCE

1. The object of the Coventry Award of Merit shall be publicly to acknowledge and honour behaviour reflecting the highest ideals of citizenship or outstanding performance in any worthy field of human endeavour which enhances the good name of the City of Coventry and affords inspiration to its citizens.

2. Any person, company or other organisation shall be eligible for consideration for the Coventry Award of Merit who has:-
 - 2.1 Rendered outstanding service to the City of Coventry in service to the local community.
 - 2.2 By outstanding personal effort in the field of sport, industry, government or the arts, brought particular renown to the City of Coventry.
 - 2.3 Made an outstanding contribution to the national life or in international affairs in any field of human activity in a manner which has brought credit upon the City of Coventry.
 - 2.4 By personal example of courage or devotion to duty and service to others, demonstrated the highest ideals of citizenship.

3. The grant of the Award of Merit shall be made by the City Council on the recommendation of Cabinet Member (Corporate & Neighbourhood Services), who will be advised by an Advisory Panel established for the purpose.

The Cabinet Member and Advisory Panel shall endeavour to maintain consistently high standards in the submission of recommendations and accordingly shall be at liberty to make such further enquiry into a nomination as they think proper, and shall be under no obligation to submit any recommendation unless they are satisfied that in doing so such standards would be maintained.

4. Any individual or organisation (including any member of the panel of Assessors) may submit a nomination for the Award of Merit. Any such nomination shall be in writing and submitted to the Director of Customer and Workforce Services with a detailed statement of the grounds on which it is made.

5. The Award of Merit shall take such form as the City Council may from time to time determine but shall include a Citation signed by the Lord Mayor for the time being stating the grounds on which the Award has been made. Awards shall be made by the Lord Mayor at a public ceremony.