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Cabinet Member for Policing and Equalities  
Council

13 August, 2018  
4 September, 2018

**Name of Cabinet Member:**

Cabinet Member for Policing and Equalities – Councillor A Khan

**Director Approving Submission of the report:**

Deputy Chief Executive, Place

**Ward(s) affected:**

None

**Title:**

**The Coventry Award of Merit**

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**Is this a key decision?**

No

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**Executive Summary**

On 12 July, 2018 Mr R Stanton was nominated to receive the Coventry Award of Merit following the key role that he played in the rescue of 12 boys and their football coach from the Tham Luang caves in Thailand. This nomination was considered by the Cabinet Member for Policing and Equalities (Coventry Award of Merit) Advisory Panel at its meeting on 30 July, 2018. The Advisory Panel unanimously supported the nomination. The Cabinet Member is requested to consider the nomination in light of the advice of the Advisory Panel.

**Recommendations:**

1. That the Cabinet Member for Policing and Equalities considers the advice from the meeting of the Cabinet Member (Policing and Equalities) Coventry Award of Merit Advisory Panel held on 13 August, 2018 that Mr R Stanton be granted the Coventry Award of Merit and, if considered appropriate, recommends that the City Council grants the Coventry Award of Merit to Mr R Stanton.
2. That the City Council considers the recommendation of the Cabinet Member for Policing and Equalities and grants the Coventry Award of Merit to Mr R Stanton

**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?**

Yes – 4 September, 2018

## **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.

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.

- 1.2 The Advisory Panel is made up of the following members:
- Cabinet Member for Policing and Equalities, Councillor A Khan (Chair)
  - Cabinet Member for Strategic Finance and Resources, Councillor J Mutton
  - Shadow Cabinet Member for Policing and Equalities, Councillor A Andrews
  - Chair of Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee, Councillor T Khan, (or his representative)
  - The Lord Mayor, ex officio, Councillor J Blundell
  - The Council's Honorary Recorder, Judge A Lockhart
- 1.3 The Advisory Panel met on 30 July, 2018 to advise the Cabinet Member for Policing and Equalities following the receipt of a nomination for Mr R Stanton and unanimously supported the granting of the award.
- 1.4 Rick Stanton was nominated for the award following his internationally publicised key role in the rescue of 12 boys and their football coach from the Tham Luang caves in Thailand. The group had been trapped for 9 days before being found by Rick and his diving partner, John Volanthen. This was not Mr Stanton first rescue mission and he has been involved in saving lives before, as well as being a firefighter for 25 years. A copy of the nomination form is attached as an Appendix to this report.

#### **2. Options considered and recommended proposal**

- 2.1 The Cabinet Member for Policing and Equalities is requested to consider the advice from the Advisory Panel and make an appropriate recommendation to the City Council at their meeting on 4 September, 2018

#### **3. Results of consultation undertaken**

- 3.1.1 The Cabinet Member consulted the Coventry Good Citizen Award Advisory Panel on 30 July, 2018 and will consider its advice in making his recommendations to Council.

#### **4. Timetable for implementing this decision**

- 4.1 The Cabinet Member for Policing and Equalities will consider the recommendation from the Coventry Award of Merit Advisory Panel and will then make a recommendation regarding the recipient to the City Council for approval at their meeting on 4 September, 2018.
- 4.2 Following the decision of Council on 4 September, suitable arrangements will be made for an Awards Ceremony should the Council approve the recipient of the Award.

#### **5. Comments from the Director of Finance and Corporate Services**

##### **5.1 Financial implications**

If approved, as in previous years, the costs associated with the Ceremony and the Award will met from within the existing budget of the Lord Mayor's Hospitality Budget.

##### **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. These awards 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?**

None identified.

##### **6.3 What is the impact on the organisation?**

These Awards enhance and promote the reputation of the Council and the City of Coventry

##### **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:

Suzanne Bennett, Governance Services Co-ordinator

### Directorate:

Place

### Tel and email contact:

Tele: 02476 833072 Suzanne.bennett@coventry.gov.uk

Enquiries should be directed to the above person.

Contributor/approver name	Title	Directorate or organisation	Date doc sent out	Date response received or approved
<b>Contributors:</b>				
Adrian West	Members and Election Team Manager	Place	19/07/18	30/08/18
Jane Barlow	Principal Private Secretary to the Lord Mayoralty	Place	19/07/18	19/07/18
<b>Names of approvers for submission: (officers and members)</b>				
Finance: Graham Clark	Lead Accountant, Finance	Place	30/07/18	30/08/18
Legal: Julie Newman	City Solicitor and	Place	30/07/18	30/07/18

	Monitoring Officer			
Director: Barry Hastie	Director of Finance and Corporate Services	Place	30/07/18	30/8/18
Deputy Chief Executive: Martin Yardley	Deputy Chief Executive, Place	Place	31/07/18	31/07/18
Members:	Councillor A Khan	Cabinet Member for Policing and Equalities	31/07/18	31/08/18

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**Award of Merit Nomination**

**Mr Richard William Stanton MBE**

Mr Rick Stanton, 56, is a former firefighter. He was based at Canley Fire Station where he served with the West Midlands Fire Service for 25 years before retiring.

As a member of the South and Mid Wales Cave Rescue Team for many years, he and his diving partner, John Volanthen, were called to help rescue the youth soccer team and their coach trapped in the Tham Luang caves in Thailand.

The team of divers risked their lives in rescuing the boys who had been trapped for nine days before being found by Mr Stanton and Mr Volanthen. It has been reported to be the most challenging underground rescue in history, with more than 90 Special Forces Soldiers originally drafted in to help.

In an interview in 2007, Mr Stanton stated that he became interested in diving as a child, after watching a programme called "Underground Eiger". He went on to join diving clubs at university.

An online encyclopedia states that Rick Stanton is "one of the world's most accomplished cave-divers". In 2004 he was involved in the rescue of six British cavers who were trapped for 8 days in a cave at the Mexican Alpacatzuc caverns.

In 2008 Rick Stanton received the EUROTEK award for his contribution to advanced and technical diving and in 2012 he received a medal from the Royal Humane Society for his attempt to rescue a diver from a French cave.

He was appointed a Member of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (MBE) in the 2013 New Year Honours.

Councillor George Duggins  
Leader of Coventry City Council

12<sup>th</sup> July 2018