
A separate report is submitted in the private part of the agenda in respect of this item as it contains details of individuals required to be kept private in accordance with Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972. The grounds for privacy are that it contains information relating to individuals. The Recommendations to Council on 25 March, 2025 will be in public, detailing the nominees for the Award.

Cabinet Member for Policy and Leadership 17 March, 2025

Council 25 March, 2025

Name of Cabinet Member:

Cabinet Member for Policy and Leadership – Councillor G Duggins

Director approving submission of the report:

Director of Law and Governance

Ward(s) affected:

N/A

Title:

Nominations for the Coventry Award of Merit

Is this a key decision? No

Executive summary:

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 grant of the Award of Merit is made by full Council on the recommendation of the Cabinet Member, who is advised by an Advisory Panel established for the purpose. Nominations can be received from any organisation or individual. A number of nominations have been received by the City Council for the Coventry Award of Merit from a variety of sources. The nominations will be considered by the Advisory Panel at its meeting on 13 March, 2025, the membership of which includes the Honorary Recorder and the Lord Mayor.

The Cabinet Member for Policy and Leadership is requested to consider the nominations in light of the advice of the Coventry Award of Merit Advisory Panel. The recommendations that are submitted to the Council Meeting will be in public detailing the nominees for the Award.

Recommendations:

The Cabinet Member for Policy and Leadership is recommended to:

Consider the advice from the meeting of the Coventry Award of Merit Advisory Panel held on 13 March, 2025 and make recommendations to Council accordingly.

Council is recommended to:

Approve the recommendations of the Cabinet Member for Policy and Leadership and grant the Coventry Award of Merit to the recipients recommended by the Cabinet Member.

List of Appendices included:

The following appendices are attached to the report:

Appendix 1 – Terms of Reference for the Coventry Award of Merit

Appendix 2 – List of Recipients of the Coventry Award of Merit

Background papers:

None

Other useful documents

None

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 - 25 March, 2025

Report title: Nominations for 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 Any person, company or other organisation shall be eligible for consideration for the Coventry Award of Merit who has:-
 - Rendered outstanding service to the City of Coventry in service to the local community.
 - By outstanding personal effort in the field of sport, industry, government or the arts, brought particular renown to the City of Coventry.
 - 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.
 - By personal example of courage or devotion to duty and service to others, demonstrated the highest ideals of citizenship.
- 1.3 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. Appendix 1 to the report details the Terms of Reference for the Award and Appendix 2 details the list of former recipients.
- 1.4 The Advisory Panel is made up of the following members:
 - Cabinet Member for Policy and Leadership, Councillor G Duggins (Chair)
 - Cabinet Member for Strategic Finance and Resources, Councillor R Brown
 - Shadow Cabinet Member for Policing and Equalities, Councillor J Lepoidevin
 - Chair of Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee, Councillor G Lloyd
 - The Lord Mayor, ex officio, Councillor M Mutton
 - The Council's Honorary Recorder, His Honour Judge A Lockhart KC
- 1.5 The Advisory Panel will meet on 13 March, 2025 to advise the Cabinet Member for Policy and Leadership on possible recipients of the Award.
- 1.6 The Cabinet Member for Policy and Leadership will consider the advice from the Advisory Panel and make recommendations to Council for approval at the Council meeting on 25 March, 2025.
- 1.7 Where the Cabinet Member is minded to accept the Advisory Panel's advice he will consult the proposed recipients of the Award prior to presenting proposals for approval to full Council on 25 March, 2025. It is recommended that pending such consultation, the nominations should remain confidential.

2. Options considered and recommended proposal

- 2.1 The Cabinet Member is recommended to consider the advice from the meeting of the Coventry Award of Merit Advisory Panel held on 13 March, 2025 and to make recommendations to Council accordingly.

3. Results of consultation undertaken

- 3.1 The Cabinet Member will consult the Advisory Panel on 13 March, 2025 and will consider its advice in making his recommendations to Council.

4. Timetable for implementing this decision

- 4.1 The Cabinet Member for Policy and Leadership will consider recommendations from the Coventry Award of Merit Advisory Panel and will then make recommendations regarding recipients to the City Council for approval at their meeting on 25 March, 2025.
- 4.2 Following the decision of Council on 25 March, 2025, suitable arrangements will be made for an Awards Ceremony should the Council approve recipients of the Awards

5. Comments from Director of Finance and Resources and Director of Law and Governance

5.1. Financial Implications

As in previous years the costs associated with the Ceremony and the Awards will be 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

6.1. How will this contribute to the One Coventry Plan?

<https://www.coventry.gov.uk/strategies-plans-policies/one-coventry-plan>

This Award gives 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 are no risks 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 implications.

6.5. Implications for (or impact on) climate change and the environment?

There are no implications.

6.6. Implications for partner organisations?

There are no implications.

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Names of approvers for submission: (officers and members)				
Finance: Richard Shirley	Lead Accountant	Finance	03/03/25	04/03/25
Director: Julie Newman	Director of Law and Governance	Law and Governance	03/03/25	04/03/25
Members: Councillor G Duggins	Cabinet Member for Policy and Leadership	-	03/03/25	03/03/25

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