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Council

24 June, 2025

**Name of Cabinet Member:**

Cabinet Member for Policing and Equalities

**Director approving submission of the report:**

Director of Law and Governance

**Ward(s) affected:**

N/A

**Title: Nomination for the Coventry Award of Merit**

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**Is this a key decision? No**

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**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 for Policing and Equalities, who is advised by an Advisory Panel established for the purpose. Nominations can be received from any organisation or individual.

A nomination has been received to grant the Coventry Award of Merit to His Honour Judge Andrew Lockhart, KC, Honorary Recorder for the City of Coventry 2017-2025. Having consulted the Advisory Panel, who unanimously supported the nomination, the Cabinet Member for Policing and Equalities is recommending that the Award be granted to His Honour Judge Lockhart KC.

**Recommendations:**

Council is recommended to approve the recommendation of the Cabinet Member for Policing and Equalities and grant the Coventry Award of Merit to His Honour Judge Andrew Lockhart KC.

**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 Award Recipients

**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 - 24 June, 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. Appendix 2 to this report details former recipients of the Award,
- 1.4 A nomination has been received to award His Honour Judge Andrew Lockhart KC, Honorary Recorder for the City of Coventry 2017-2025. His Honour Judge Lockhart has served the City with great dedication, dignity and pride during this period, significantly contributing to the Civic Life of the City. As the Chair of the Coventry Good Citizen Awards Committee, he has taken great care in promoting and upholding the aims of the award and attended Council Meetings to present the Awards where his enthusiastic and personal speeches have made the occasions all the more special for the recipients of those accolades. He has invaluable supported Lord Mayors and officers of the Council in their roles attending functions and days of ceremony, including those associated with the passing of the late Queen Elizabeth II and the accession of His Majesty King Charles III. He has brought a sense of decorum and gravitas to all events he has attended and has been a true ambassador and advocate for the City.
- 1.5 The Advisory Panel is made up of the following members:
  - Cabinet Member for Policing and Equalities, Councillor AS Khan
  - 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 R Lancaster

(The Honorary Recorder is also usually a Member of this Panel but in this instance has not been involved in the consideration of the nomination)

- 1.6 The Advisory Panel have been consulted on the nomination and have unanimously supported the grant of the Award of Merit to His Honour Judge Lockhart.
- 1.7 The Cabinet Member for Policing and Equalities has considered the nomination and the Advisory Panel's unanimous support for the nomination and is therefore recommending that Council grants the Coventry Award of Merit to His Honour Judge Andrew Lockhart.

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

- 2.1 In light of the support, Council is recommended to approve the recommendation of the Cabinet Member for Policing and Equalities and grant the Coventry Award of Merit to His Honour Judge Andrew Lockhart KC.

## **Results of consultation undertaken**

- 3.1 The Cabinet Member has taken account of the advice from the Advisory Panel in making his recommendation to Council.

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

- 3.1.1 Following the decision of Council on 24 June, 2025, suitable arrangements will be made for an Awards Ceremony.

## **4. Comments from Director of Finance and Resources and Director of Law and Governance**

### **4.1. 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.

### **4.2. Legal Implications**

There are no legal implications associated with this decision

## **5. Other implications**

### **5.1. 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.

## 5.2. How is risk being managed?

There are no risks identified

## 5.3. What is the impact on the organisation?

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

## 5.4. Equalities / EIA?

There are no implications.

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

There are no implications.

## 5.6. Implications for partner organisations?

There are no implications.

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Members: Councillor AS Khan	Cabinet Member for Policing and Equalities	-	11/06/25	12/06/25

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