

REPORT TO: POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE - 9 SEPTEMBER 2002

REPORT ON: DUNDEE CITIZENSHIP AWARDS

REPORT BY: CHIEF EXECUTIVE

REPORT NO: 659-2002

1. PURPOSE

To recommend changes to the Dundee Citizenship Awards

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that

- (i) the criteria and selection process for the Citizen of the Year award should revert to the position prior to 1996 i.e. one citizen to be selected, regardless of age, with the emphasis being on recognition of local community and voluntary service
- (ii) a new strategy should be developed to encourage nominations for the award
- (iii) past and future winners of the Citizen award should have their names inscribed on a Board of Honour to be placed in a prominent position within the City Chambers.
- (iv) members note the proposal for the City of Discovery Campaign to introduce a new award, Ambassador of the Year, to recognise a person who has enhanced the image and reputation of the city through their national profile in fields such as business, sport, the arts or academic research

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 The cost of supplying and fitting a Board of Honour, listing all winners to date of the Citizen of the Year Award, is estimated at £800. There would be an estimated cost of £20-30 to add lettering for the award winners in future years. The Council would also have to make provision for the £100 cheque for charity nominated by the award winner, which in recent years has been met by the Discovery Campaign.
- 3.2 All of these costs can be met from the Civic Ceremonial budget.

4. LOCAL AGENDA 21 IMPLICATIONS

None

5. EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS

None

6. BACKGROUND

- 6.1 The Dundee Citizenship Awards changed in 1996, with the introduction of two new awards for the Young Citizen and Senior Citizen in addition to the long established Citizen of the Year Award. The City of Discovery Campaign also became involved, with a view to raising the profile of the awards.

- 6.2 In recent years, the selection process has given rise to considerable discussion on the purpose of the award and therefore the type of person who should be selected i.e. should it be a person who has given long service locally in a community or voluntary capacity but is perhaps not well known outside the city, or someone who has achieved a national profile for the city through eminence in a field such as business, sport, the arts or academic research?
- 6.3 It is recommended that this issue be resolved by:
- withdrawal of the City of Discovery Campaign from the Citizen of the Year selection process
 - the City of Discovery Campaign promoting a new 'Ambassador of the Year' award to recognise someone who has enhanced the image and reputation of the city outwith its boundaries. It is proposed that nominations for this new award could come from the Campaign Committee, from the public or from relevant organisations e.g. in the business or academic sector. This award may allow recognition of people who work, but do not necessarily live, in the city. Initially, one award would be made but in future years the Campaign Committee may wish to consider expanding the scheme to make awards in a number of categories e.g. Business Ambassador, Science Ambassador, Sports Ambassador, Arts Ambassador etc.
- 6.4 It is also recommended that the Citizen of the Year award should revert to the pre-1996 position with the selection of one Citizen of the Year, from any age group. A new strategy should be developed to 'market' the award and encourage nominations over a longer period, using the departments with which members of the community have frequent contact. The existing criteria, set out in Appendix 1, should continue to apply subject to deletion of section 8 on age restrictions.
- 6.5 At present, each of the three 'Citizens' is given a cheque for £100 to be given to the charity of their choice, currently funded by the City of Discovery Campaign. It is proposed that the Council meets the cost of this cheque for the one winner under the new arrangements, and also that a Board of Honour be established in the City Chambers, on which the names of all past and future winners can be inscribed. It is proposed to locate this close to the boards which list the city's Lord Provosts.
- 6.6 An appropriate recognition for the 'Ambassador' awards may be the presentation of a signed framed certificate. Particularly if the awards scheme is expanded to cover a number of categories, the Campaign may wish to consider organising an event such as an awards dinner.
- 6.7 For information, the position in each of the other major Scottish cities is:
- Glasgow** - the 'Lord Provost's Award' is given in a number of categories, although awards are not necessarily made in every category each year. The categories include community and voluntary service, performing arts, visual arts, media, sport, politics, public service and education. In addition, 'The Loving Cup' can be awarded to a person who has brought prestige to the city (examples include Sir Alex Ferguson)

- Edinburgh** - has the 'William Y Darling Good Citizen Award', usually given to two people each year, very much to recognise community work. There is no award scheme for 'celebrities' but the Council may hold a civic reception to acknowledge particular achievements. (eg an Olympic medallist)
- Aberdeen** - does not have a general award, but just two specific awards relating to equal opportunities. One award (£500) goes to local people or organisations which have made an advance in the field of equal opportunities. The other award recognises employers who have provided sheltered employment. They used to have a Young Peoples' Award but this is no longer made.

7 **CONSULTATION**

The Dundee Citizenship Awards Committee and the City of Discovery Campaign Committee have been consulted in the preparation of this report.

Chief Executive Date

CITIZENSHIP AWARDS CRITERIA

Note: These are the current criteria. If the recommendation to revert to one Citizen is approved, Section 8 would require to be amended to show that the award is open to all ages over 16

- 1 The recipient must reside within the area of Dundee City Council.
- 2 Nominations should relate in the main, to outstanding service undertaken by the individual for the benefit of the Community, normally on a voluntary basis, especially selfless service to a voluntary body or the community or service which brings distinction and quality to everyday life in Dundee.
- 3 In assessing outstanding service it may be necessary to consider the circumstances of achievement eg whether it was in the face of great odds such as personal disability or severe private or domestic difficulties etc.
- 4 Recipients must be of good character and to this extent character references will be sought prior to notification of appointments.
- 5 Recipients must be able to uphold the dignity of the position and be capable of performing some duties if called upon.
- 6 The nomination must be signed by a Proposer and a Secunder. In the case of a family member nominating another the Secunder must be from outwith the family circle.
- 7 Nominations would not normally be taken forward if:
 - (a) The reason for the nomination relates mainly to the individual's full time work;
 - (b) The individual is already in receipt of an honour for the same citizenship activity, such as OBE or MBE; or
 - (c) The individual concerned was a City Councillor, MP, MSP or MEP.
- 8 Categories - Age Restrictions (see note at top of page)
 - (a) Young Citizens must be either in at least 4th year at school or between 16 and 18 years of age.
 - (b) Senior Citizens must be at least 60 years of age.
 - (c) Citizens of the Year must be over 18 and under 60 years of age.
 - (d) Nominations can only be considered in one category of award.