

Appendices



Item No.

NORTHAMPTON
BOROUGH COUNCIL

CABINET REPORT

Report Title

NORTHAMPTON CITIZEN AWARDS

AGENDA STATUS:

PUBLIC

Cabinet Meeting Date:	26 November 2008
Key Decision:	NO
Listed on Forward Plan:	NO
Within Policy:	YES
Policy Document:	NO
Directorate:	Chief Executives
Accountable Cabinet Member:	Cllr Brendan Glynane
Ward(s)	ALL

1. Purpose

1.1 To consider proposals for a scheme of Citizens Awards.

2. Recommendations

2.1 To agree in principle to recommend to Full Council the creation of a Citizens Award Scheme.

2.2 That the working title of the scheme should be "Northampton Borough Council Citizens Awards"

2.3 To establish a Citizens Awards Panel to oversee the development and implementation of the scheme, with the following composition:

Mayor (as Chair)
Deputy Mayor
Preceding Mayor
Leader of the Council or nominee

One member from any political group on the Council not represented above

- 2.4 That the Chief Executive be requested to prepare and agree with the Panel a scheme for the implementation of Citizens Awards, for agreement at Full Council.

3. Issues and Choices

3.1 Report Background

- 3.1.1 Council, at its meeting on 27th October 2008, resolved to request Cabinet

“to bring forward proposals, based on the policy adopted by this Council on 8 November 2004, but never implemented for a Scheme of Citizens Awards”.

3.2 Issues

- 3.2.1 Different Councils around the country apply various versions of Citizens Awards schemes. Whilst the details vary the main aim of such schemes is to recognise the exceptional contributions that individuals, groups or organisations make to life in the Council’s administrative area.
- 3.2.2 It would be possible to have particular categories of awards, ranging from individual awards for outstanding contributions which could be focussed in particular areas, such as a ‘young citizens award’, to themed awards focussed on particular areas the Council wants to recognise and promote, such as community safety or cohesion or regeneration awards. It would be prudent to have a maximum number of awards each year.
- 3.2.3 The process and criteria for identifying winners under the scheme would need to be determined. Nominations could be invited through appropriate advertising in local papers, community groups and through Ward Councillors.
- 3.2.4 A judging panel would be required and it may be appropriate to seek some external independent involvement in such a panel. Awards could be presented by the Mayor at a special meeting of the Council convened specifically for this purpose where an award of some kind, such as a framed certificate, could be given together with an entry into a roll of honour kept specifically for that purpose. An evening reception may follow, subject to cost and scale.
- 3.2.5 This report does not seek to determine the scheme now but seeks authority from Cabinet for a scheme to be developed, through a proposed panel of members, which reflects the civic nature of these awards and also includes all political groups on the Council. The proposal will need to be referred to Full Council for consideration.

3.3 Choices (Options)

- 3.3.1 Do nothing. This is not recommended because of Full Council's clear decision that a Citizens Award scheme needs to be developed.
- 3.3.2 Develop a Scheme for Citizens awards for Full Council approval. This is the recommended course of action.

4. Implications (including financial implications)

4.1 Policy

None specifically.

4.2 Resources and Risk

The scheme will have some resource implications, depending on the detail of the scheme chosen, such as advertising costs and officer and other costs for administering the scheme. However, these cannot be determined accurately at this stage and will depend on the exact scheme chosen. Every effort will be made to implement the scheme within existing resources.

4.3 Legal

None specifically.

4.4 Equality

Any scheme that is eventually proposed will ensure that equality and diversity issues are fully factored into the scheme.

4.5 Consultees (Internal and External)

Internal only at this stage

4.6 How the Proposals deliver Priority Outcomes

Any scheme could seek to target individuals or groups who are involved in activities that fall within corporate priorities.

4.7 Other Implications

None specifically

5. Background Papers

- 5.1 Council Report 8th November 2004 and Motion 27th October 2008
- 5.2 FJF Working File

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