



**Corporate Policy &
Resources Committee**

**Thursday, 15 December
2022**

**Subject: Recommendation from the Community Awards Panel - 2023
Award Proposal**

Report by:

Chairman and Members of the Community Awards Panel

Contact Officer:

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Purpose / Summary:

To approve the recommendation from the Community Awards Panel to sponsor an award within an existing awards scheme in lieu of holding a West Lindsey District Council Community Awards ceremony in 2023

RECOMMENDATION(S):

- 1. That the recommendation from the Community Awards Panel, to sponsor an award within an existing awards scheme, in lieu of holding a West Lindsey District Council Community Awards Ceremony in 2023, be approved in principle; and**
- 2. That, subject to approval of recommendation 1, Officers continue to meet with the Community Awards Panel to determine details of the sponsored award; and**
- 3. That, subject to approval of the above two recommendations, final details of the sponsored award, and how to submit nominations, be communicated to Members via the Member Newsletter.**

IMPLICATIONS

Legal:

(N.B.) Where there are legal implications the report **MUST** be seen by the MO

Financial: FIN/118/23/SL

Within the civic budgets, there is a maximum amount of £1500 allocated to hosting and delivering the Community Awards scheme. The approval of the recommendation before the Committee would enable the Community Awards budget to be redirected into a sponsored award in lieu of a 2023 ceremony.

Staffing:

Organisation and delivery of the Community Awards scheme sits within the existing resources of the Democratic Services Team. There would be no staffing implications arising from the approval of this proposal.

Equality and Diversity including Human Rights:

The premise behind sponsoring an award within an existing scheme would continue the West Lindsey District Council ethos of being open to all. Nominations for the sponsored award would be reviewed on their own merits.

Data Protection Implications:

Data requested for nominations would be held and used for the sole purpose of determining an award winner and notifying them as such. It would be anticipated that much of this data would be under the control of the award scheme operators. Applications would be made direct to the event organiser and not handled by WLDC.

Climate Related Risks and Opportunities:

Traditional arrangements for the Community Awards Ceremony would see people from all over the district travelling to one place, with climate implications re use of carbon emitting transport. The proposal provides an opportunity to reduce those emissions by sponsoring a single award (fewer people travelling) and by joining with an existing scheme (one ceremony creating travel emissions rather than two.)

Section 17 Crime and Disorder Considerations:

N/A

Health Implications:

There are no health implications arising from this report, however, it is recognised that there is a positive impact on a person’s wellbeing in being nominated or winning an award. The Panel is keen to support ongoing recognition for the people of West Lindsey.

Title and Location of any Background Papers used in the preparation of this report :

Wherever possible please provide a hyperlink to the background paper/s
If a document is confidential and not for public viewing it should not be listed.

Risk Assessment:

N/A

Call in and Urgency:

Is the decision one which Rule 14.7 of the Scrutiny Procedure Rules apply?

i.e. is the report exempt from being called in due to urgency (in consultation with C&I chairman)

Yes

No

X

Key Decision:

A matter which affects two or more wards, or has significant financial implications

Yes

No

X

- 1.1 For the past decade, West Lindsey District Council has run an awards scheme in order to recognise the dedication and achievements of individuals, community groups, volunteers and Parish Councils across the district. There have been a variety of award categories, developing over time to reflect the changing nature of community involvement.
- 1.2 The last 'in person' awards ceremony was held at Hemswell Court in 2019. The 2020 ceremony was required to be cancelled as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic. Because of the national lockdown restrictions, winners of the award categories received their trophies without ceremony, with recognition being publicised via social media and the WLDC website.
- 1.3 Subsequent meetings of the Community Awards Panel discussed options for a 2021 Awards Ceremony, and similar in 2022, at length. Members of the Panel were cautious of undertaking such a ceremony, initially due to ongoing uncertainty in 2021 regarding national lockdown restrictions, whilst also recognising that there had been so many 'Community Champions' during the pandemic, it was felt to be somewhat counterintuitive seeking nominations for a limited number of award categories. For these reasons, the Community Awards did not take place in 2021 or 2022.
- 1.4 With this year fast disappearing, Officers convened a meeting of the Community Awards Panel which took place on Tuesday 15 November. The meeting was quorate with a unanimous recommendation arising from in depth discussions.

2 Meeting of the Community Awards Panel

- 2.1 Members of the Community Awards Panel, at their meeting on 15 November 2022, were requested to provide Officers with a clear mandate in relation to the 2023 ceremony. It was recognised that support for the Community Awards had been waning even prior to the pandemic, with nominations tending to be received from the same individuals and in relation to the same groups, councils, volunteers.
- 2.2 Members of the Panel were advised that it would be necessary for any ceremony to be held prior to the commencement of the pre-election period (commonly known as purdah), this being due to commence on 13 March 2023.
- 2.3 It was acknowledged, and Members were keen to highlight, that there was great work undertaken across the district and they continued to want to recognise that, whilst voicing concerns regarding the success, or otherwise, of recent ceremonies.
- 2.4 It was also acknowledged that there were a number of successful award schemes across the district and Lincolnshire, some of which, such as the Business Awards and Lincs Care Awards, were already supported by West Lindsey District Council.

3 Proposals for the West Lindsey District Council Community Awards Ceremony 2023

3.1 Based on discussions of the Community Awards Panel, it was suggested to Members that there were three options available to them, those being:

- to proceed with the Community Awards 2023, culminating in an Awards Ceremony to take place prior to 13 March 2023; or
- not to proceed with the Community Awards 2023, whilst requesting Officers to undertake a full review of the scheme; or
- seeking an alternative option such as the sponsorship of an award within an existing, well supported, awards scheme (such as the Business Awards, Lincs Care Awards or Lincs FM county-wide awards).

3.2 Based on these options, and given the desire to continue to recognise groups and individuals across the district, Members did not wish to cancel the awards completely for another year. However, there was an acceptance that the previous iterations of the Community Awards had been decreasingly successful.

3.3 The Community Awards Panel was therefore minded to agree the exploration of the third option, that being to seek sponsorship of an award within an existing awards scheme, suggesting that this would provide a suitable alternative for 2023 as the Council, and communities alike, moved away from the restrictions of the pandemic and returned to 'business as usual'.

3.4 It was suggested that this option be explored for 2023, with further work undertaken by Officers to ascertain future options for 2024 onwards.

3.5 Panel Members expressed their hope that West Lindsey District Councillors be involved in identifying nominees for the sponsored award.

4 Conclusion

4.1 Whilst the proposal will fall within the budget already allocated, given the deviation from a previously agreed annual event, and in the absence of national or local restrictions preventing the event taking place in its usual guise, the Community Awards Panel is seeking support and approval from the Corporate Policy and Resources Committee, as its parent Committee, that:

- the recommendation from the Community Awards Panel to sponsor an award within an existing awards scheme, in lieu of holding a West Lindsey District Council Community Awards Ceremony in 2023, be approved in principle; and

- subject to approval of recommendation 1, Officers continue to meet with the Community Awards Panel to determine details of the sponsored award; and
- subject to approval of the above two recommendations, final details of the sponsored award, and how to submit nominations, be communicated to Members via the Member Newsletter.