



Report of the Chief Democratic Services Officer

Executive Board

Date: 17th October 2007

Subject: Creation of the Leeds Award

Electoral Wards Affected:

Ward Members consulted
(referred to in report)

Specific Implications For:

Equality and Diversity

Community Cohesion

Narrowing the Gap

Eligible for Call In

Not Eligible for Call In
(Details contained in the report)

1.0 Purpose Of This Report

1.1 This report recommends the creation of the "Leeds Award" in order to recognise people who have brought credit to the City.

2.0 Background Information

2.1 The Freedom of the City is the highest honour that the City can bestow. Freedom ceremonies are conducted in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act 1972, carry a very high profile and should be kept to a minimum to maintain that profile. In recent years, its award has been restricted to Nelson Mandela, Dame Fanny Waterman, Jane Tomlinson CBE and Alan Bennett.

2.2 Each Freedom Ceremony costs in the order of £5000.

2.3 It is however accepted that there are a number of people whose achievements reflect credit upon the City which should be recognised by some formal process other than that provided by statute.

3.0 Proposals

3.1 It is proposed that such individual should be awarded the “Leeds Award”, the organisation to be as detailed below.

Nominations

3.2 The names of any potential nominees would be forwarded to all Group Leaders and to the Lord Mayor for consideration.

3.3 Where there was general agreement to the names that go forward, the individuals concerned would be consulted to ensure that they would be happy to receive such an award.

3.4 Names would then be included in the Summons for the next appropriate Council meeting, where Council would be invited to approve the award of the “Leeds Award” and to delegate to the Lord Mayor the responsibility for undertaking an appropriate award ceremony.

3.5 There is no proposal to restrict the number of recipients of the award either at each nomination or ceremony but, clearly, it would be necessary to ensure that numbers were such that the prestige of the award is maintained.

Award

3.6 It is proposed to commission the production of a certificate, which would be reproduced. The certificate will then be personalised with each individual name.

3.7 The Lord Mayor would preside over an appropriate ceremony at which each recipient of the “Leeds Award”, would be presented with their personal certificate and an appropriate reception for themselves and invited guests.

3.8 The names of the recipients of the award would be inscribed in an appropriate location. Following consultations with the Chief Planning Officer the entrance area of the East and West entrances to the antechamber is proposed for this purpose.

4.0 Implications for Council Policy and Governance

4.1 There are no implications for Council Policy or Governance

5.0 Legal And Resource Implications

- 5.1 The cost of producing certificates can be met from within available resources. Each ceremony would cost in the region of £1,250 and it is assumed there would be quarterly ceremonies. The Lord Mayors hospitality budget would require an injection of £5,000.

6.0 Recommendation

- 6.1 It is recommended that the creation of the “Leeds Award” be approved and that the administration of this award be as detailed within this report.