

# OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

## Civic Task Group Recommendations

8<sup>th</sup> March 2017

### Report of the Chief Executive

#### PURPOSE OF REPORT

To request that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee consider the suggestions made by the Informal Civic Group.

**This report is public.**

#### RECOMMENDATIONS

**That Members consider the suggestions made by the Informal Civic Group as set out below :**

- (1) That a Civic and Citizenship Panel made up of 12 to include the Mayor and Deputy Mayor, Honorary appointments, dignitaries and community representatives be established by the Council to support the Mayoralty in undertake the following:
  - Promote citizenship through organising visits to schools, clubs etc.
  - Assist with the organisation of Local Democracy Week.
  - Run the Citizenship awards with CVS.
  - Promote the Mayor's Charity and assist the Mayor with fund raising events.
  - Assist in the organisation of Mayor Making and Civic events
  - Assist with the developing the Civic role.
  
- (2) That a Mayor's Citizenship award scheme be established by the Civic and Citizenship Panel in conjunction with CVS and consider introducing the following categories :
  - Bravery Award
  - Young Carer Award
  - Staff Award
  
- (3) That the Deputy Mayor should no longer be chosen by the Mayor, but should be the Councillor who is next in line for the Mayoralty and should succeed in becoming Mayor the following year.
  
- (4) That the Overseas Student's Reception be re-introduced.

## 1. Introduction

Members will recall, a working group was established to re-consider the recommendations of the Civic Task Group. The meeting took place, with those taking part on an interest basis, 15<sup>th</sup> February and the group considered the recommendations that had not been implemented.

## 2. Outcomes

### Civic and Citizenship Panel

The main recommendation that was discussed was that of establishing a Civic and Citizenship Panel. This had been attempted when the original report was considered but problems had arisen in trying to recruit members of the public to take part. Only a handful of people had come forward and it was agreed by the Council Business Committee that this recommendation would not go any further forward.

It was agreed that it would be more beneficial for the Panel to comprise of Alderman, former Councillors who had been Mayor and also their Mayoresses. It was also felt important that the Deputy Mayor should be included in the membership of the Panel and naturally the Mayor.

### Mayor's Citizenship Awards

It was felt that the introduction of Citizenship Awards could be undertaken easily with little resource implications and the civic pride that it would create for local people would be important.

Officers had met with CVS to discuss the award scheme they had in place to avoid duplication. CVS were keen to work with the Council to create a joint Awards Scheme and felt the Mayor's Awards would become an important esteemed award ceremony for the district.

Currently, CVS held annual awards :

- Volunteer of the Year (aged 25 or over)
- Young Volunteer of the Year (aged 24 or under)
- Trustee of the Year
- Lifetime Achievement Award
- Volunteer Sports Coach of the Year
- Fundraiser of the Year
- Community Inspiration of the Year

The Group suggested the Panel could consider introducing the following awards :

- Bravery Award
- Young Carer Award
- Staff Award

### Deputy Mayor

One Task Group recommendation that had not been implemented was introducing a system where the Mayor did not choose their Deputy Mayor. The Deputy Mayor would be Councillor who was next in line to be Mayor.

It was felt this was important as it gave the Deputy Mayor experience in the Mayoral role and prepared them for their year to come.

## Overseas Students Reception

The Group agreed that the reception for overseas students should be reinstated albeit on a smaller scale.

Subsequent to the meeting, officers investigated the reason for the overseas student's reception ceasing. The Mayor invited all overseas students to a reception at the Town Hall each autumn. Approximately, 200 students would attend but unfortunately the students expected food at the reception and they would leave shortly after arriving to go for a meal.

It is suggested that the reception be reinstated on a smaller scale, inviting 2 representatives from each country who are undertaking a full term degree course.

### **RELATIONSHIP TO POLICY FRAMEWORK**

There are no direct implications as a result of this report.

### **CONCLUSION OF IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

**(including Diversity, Human Rights, Community Safety, Sustainability and Rural Proofing)**

There are no direct implications as a result of this report.

### **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no legal implications as a direct result of this report. If the appointment of Deputy Mayor is agreed to be changed by Council, the Constitution would need to be updated accordingly.

### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

The funding of the awards and overseas student's reception will be funded from the Civic Receptions and Mayoral Functions budget (Estimate £6,100 in 2017/18).

### **OTHER RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

#### **Human Resources:**

None arising from this report.

#### **Information Services:**

None arising from this report.

#### **Property:**

None arising from this report.

#### **Open Spaces:**

None arising from this report.

### **SECTION 151 OFFICER'S COMMENTS**

The Section 151 Officer has been consulted and has no further comments.

### **MONITORING OFFICER'S COMMENTS**

The Monitoring Officer has been consulted and has no further comments.

### **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Civic Task Group Final Report

**Contact Officer:** Jenny Kay

**Telephone:** 01524 582065

**E-mail:** jkay@lancaster.gov.uk