

**Manchester City Council
Report for Information**

Report to: Constitutional and Nomination Committee - 4 October 2017

Subject: Recognising Outstanding and Exceptional Contributions to Manchester

Report of: The Chief Executive

Summary

At its special meeting on 12 July, the City Council unanimously resolved to bring forward proposals for a new honours system to recognise outstanding and exceptional contributions to Manchester and for this to include honorary citizenship for those who live and work outside Greater Manchester. This report sets out proposals for this new system, the City of Manchester Award.

Recommendation

Following endorsement from the Executive at its meeting on 13 September 2017, the Constitutional and Nomination Committee is asked to note and comment on the following report which will be presented to Council at its meeting on 4 October 2017.

Wards Affected All

Manchester Strategy outcomes	Summary of the contribution to the strategy
A thriving and sustainable city: supporting a diverse and distinctive economy that creates jobs and opportunities	The Our Manchester Strategy sets out a shared vision for the city in 2025 informed by extensive consultation with those who live work and study in the city. Realising this vision will require individuals and organisations to continue to drive Manchester forwards and the City of Manchester award scheme will formally recognise those outstanding and exceptional contributions made to Manchester from those who live and work in the city, Greater Manchester and beyond.
A highly skilled city: world class and home grown talent sustaining the city's economic success	
A progressive and equitable city: making a positive contribution by unlocking the potential of our communities	
A liveable and low carbon city: a destination of choice to live, visit, work	
A connected city: world class infrastructure and connectivity to drive growth	

Full details are in the body of the report, along with any implications for:

Financial Consequences – Revenue

The revenue costs of this scheme will average at circa £5,000 for each set of awards and will be met from within existing budgets. These costs relate to the engraving process, commemorative scroll and civic elements of the award.

Financial Consequences – Capital

The initial capital costs for the design, supply and installation of a bespoke Citizen Award Name Board in Shakespeare Hall are £10,000. These will be met from within existing budgets.

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Background documents (available for public inspection)

None specifically referred to in this report

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 At its extraordinary meeting on 12 July, the City Council passed a resolution recognising the magnificent response to the Manchester Arena attack by first responders, communities and individual members of the public. The motion noted that despite a range of award schemes operating across the City, there was no system of formal recognition for outstanding and exceptional contributions to Manchester, save for the traditional Freedom of the City provision available to all local authorities, which has existed for over 100 years. The Council therefore requested that a report detailing proposals for a new system be brought forward to the Executive for approval. The Council also resolved to create a new title of Honorary Mancunian for people living and working outside Greater Manchester, and for Ariana Grande to be the first such Honorary Mancunian. Following endorsement from the Executive at its meeting on 13 September Council is recommended to agree proposals for the City of Manchester award scheme and the associated constitutional amendments outlined in the appendices to this report. For completeness the proposed amendment to the Council Procedure Rules also sets out the Council's existing statutory powers to award certain honorary titles.

2.0 Recognising Outstanding Contributions to Manchester

- 2.1 Manchester's enduring values of innovation, radicalism and international outlook ensures that it continues to be a global city with an outstanding reputation across many areas which have shaped the world - as the first industrial city, through to critical discoveries in computing and graphene, for culture and the arts, and as the sporting capital of the UK. A history of strong collaboration across civic leaders, businesses, the wider public and voluntary services and our residents has provided the conditions for Manchester's success, demonstrated most starkly perhaps over the past twenty years, with huge physical and economic transformation and a population growing at over double the national average and continuing to rise.
- 2.2 Building on these successes, the City will need to continue to adapt and innovate. The Our Manchester Strategy sets out a vision for the city in 2025 based on what the people of Manchester said they want their city to be – thriving and sustainable, highly skilled, progressive and equitable, liveable and low carbon, and connected. Realising this vision requires the City to continue to collaborate across sectors and communities – but it will also still need individuals to continue to excel and achieve and drive the City forwards. These outstanding contributions to Manchester should be formally recognised and celebrated for making Manchester the world city it is today and will remain in the future.

3.0 The City of Manchester Award

- 3.1 A broad range of award and recognition schemes currently exist across Manchester. The annual Be Proud and Spirit of Manchester awards, nominated by the public, recognise and celebrate the valuable contributions made to the City and its neighbourhoods and communities by residents,

community groups, and the voluntary and community sectors. Industry and Professional awards also recognise the contributions made by businesses, organisations and individuals in their particular fields of expertise. The Council's Freedom of the City is awarded exceptionally, and in general for lifetime achievements and service to Manchester, and was last awarded in 2013.

- 3.2 The City of Manchester Award would complement these existing schemes formally recognising the outstanding contributions and achievements of individuals and organisations whatever their field or expertise. There are two proposed categories of award:

Outstanding Contribution to Manchester: An individual or organisation who lives, works or studies in the City and who has made such an exceptional contribution to Manchester that it should be formally recognised and recorded in the City's history. Outstanding contributions may arise from a one off event or specific achievement, or consistent excellence, which has had a positive impact on Manchester, its people or the City's reputation nationally or internationally.

Honorary Mancunian: An individual who does not live or work in the City but who by their actions has made an exceptional contribution to the City, its people or the City's reputation nationally or internationally.

- 3.4 These awards would be made by the City Council at an extraordinary meeting, followed by a civic reception hosted by the Lord Mayor, who would also present those receiving an award with a commemorative scroll as a symbol of their achievement.
- 3.5 This scheme would complement the Lord Mayor's annual programme which recognises the many citizens who contribute to Manchester. By their very special nature these awards will be made infrequently and will not be subject to a particular timescale or cycle. The recommendation process would be administered by the City Council's Civic and Ceremonial Team, with guidance available on the Council's website. Due to the exceptional nature of outstanding contribution awards, recommendations will only be taken forward for those whose impact is clearly evidenced. It is proposed that Outstanding Contributions, Honorary Mancunians, submissions would be made to the Constitutional and Nomination Committee, who would then make final recommendations to the Council.

4.0 Permanent Recognition of Achievement

- 4.1 Outstanding Contribution Awardees and Honorary Mancunians will become part of the City's history, and it is appropriate that there is a permanent public record of their award.
- 4.2 A number of options have been considered which meet the outline requirements of creating a form of permanent recognition in a location which can be visited by the general public. Consultations have been undertaken with

colleagues in Planning, City Centre Regeneration and Libraries to put forward, consider and comment on a number of ideas and locations.

- 4.3 Steel circular plaques similar to the existing blue and red plaque schemes with a bespoke Manchester design, e.g. yellow and black with a bee and the Manchester coat of arms logos, located in a civic space close to the Town Hall Complex. Library walk was considered; mounting the plaques along the elevation of the Grade two Listed Town Hall Extension. Whilst this clearly would be an accessible location for the general public, concerns were raised about the likely objections to the harm that may be caused to a heritage asset by locating potentially over time a large number of plaques onto the listed building. It should be noted that during the refurbishment works Historic England were very reluctant to see any new signage attached to the Listed Building.
- 4.4 New pavement plaques with bespoke designs and inscriptions again located in Library Walk have also been considered. The existing pavement design throughout St. Peter's Square is already of a unique and bespoke sandblasted design. Library Walk would not be a suitable location as it forms a ceiling over the basement children's library in the Extension and adding new pavements in this area would pose a risk of water ingress. Another possible location could be the pavement alongside the Town Hall on Lloyd Street with inscriptions onto the existing smooth sandstone pavements. This is likely to be a costly option involving a skilled sculptor would present significant logistical challenges during the Town hall refurbishment works.
- 4.5 The Town Hall Extension Council Chamber Ante room was considered as the central wall is occupied by honorary freeman inscriptions, the space above the left hand door are inscriptions of honoured regiments. The space above the right hand door is blank and could be used for the City of Manchester Award inscriptions. The main issue with this location is that access to the general public is currently limited and managed whereas the intent is to find a location which has the potential to attract large numbers of visitors.
- 4.6 Manchester Central Library attracts more than 1.5 million visitors a year following its refurbishment and having considered all options it is proposed as the most appropriate location for the Awards. Officers have identified the main Shakespeare Hall entrance as an impressive location to formally record the names of those receiving a City of Manchester Award. Either side of the central wall leading into the Library are two large oak grain treated boards hung from brass rails with short brass chains. The sign to the left is a Central Library display board and to the right is a sponsorship display board with a full list of all the sponsors in black writing. On the front wall of the building either side of the entrance door are four existing brass rails, two either side of the door where new Name Boards could be installed.
- 4.7 Officers recommend that this third option provides the most appropriate location for the City of Manchester Award Name Boards. It is proposed that Heritage Project Management who installed the existing Library display boards, be commissioned to develop designs and options for further review.

This will include looking at a number of material options including glass and metal materials to distinguish the existing oak boards from the new Name Boards. Heritage Project Management would consult with planning and conservation stakeholders on the options and apply for any statutory consents. They would also supply and fit the agreed Name Boards. Given the precedent set by the two existing display signs it is not expected that Historic England will have major concerns regarding this proposal and they will be consulted on the development of the options.

Appendix 1 – Amendment to the Council Procedure Rules

At the end of Part 4, Section A of Manchester City Council's Constitution insert:

31. Honorary Titles and Awards

- 31.1 The Council may, by a resolution passed by not less than two thirds of the members voting thereon at a meeting of the Council specially convened for the purpose with notice of the object given, confer the title of honorary aldermen or alderwomen on persons who have, in the opinion of the Council, rendered eminent services to the Council as past members of the Council, but who are not then members of the Council.
- 31.2 The Council may, by a resolution passed by not less than two thirds of the members voting thereon at a meeting of the Council specially convened for the purpose with notice of the object given, admit to be honorary freemen or honorary freewomen of the city, persons of distinction and persons who have, in the opinion of the Council, rendered eminent services to the city.
- 31.3 The Council may, by resolution at a meeting of the Council specially convened for the purpose with notice of the object given, formally recognise the outstanding contributions and achievements of individuals and organisations whatever their field or expertise under either of the categories described in Rules 31.4 and 31.5 below (the making of such a resolution to be known as "The City of Manchester Award").
- 31.4 The first category referred to in Rule 31.3 (to be known as "Outstanding Contribution to Manchester") shall relate to an individual or organisation who lives, works or studies in the city and who has, in the opinion of the Council, made such an exceptional contribution to Manchester that it should be formally recognised and recorded in the city's history. Outstanding Contributions may arise from a one off event or specific achievement, or consistent excellence, which has had a positive impact on Manchester, its people or the city's reputation nationally or internationally.
- 31.5 The second category referred to in Rule 31.3 (to be known as "Honorary Mancunian") shall relate to an individual who does not live or work in the city but who by their actions has, in the opinion of the Council, made an exceptional contribution to the city, its people or the city's reputation nationally or internationally.

Appendix 2 – Amendment to the Constitutional and Nomination Committee Terms of Reference

At the end of the entry for the Constitutional and Nomination Committee in Part 3, Section C of Manchester City Council's Constitution insert:

- 4.16 the formal recognition of the outstanding contributions and achievements of individuals and organisations under Rule 31.3 of the Council Procedures Rules ("The City of Manchester Award").