

**Manchester City Council
Report for Resolution**

Report to: Executive – 13 September 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.

Recommendations

Executive is recommended to endorse proposals for the City of Manchester award scheme and to request the Chief Executive to submit a report on the City of Manchester Award and associated constitutional amendments to Council at its next meeting on 4 October.

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	

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, and which has existing 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.

2.0 Recognising Outstanding Contributions to Manchester

- 2.1 Manchester's enduring values of innovation, radicalism and international outlook ensures that we continue to be a global city with an outstanding reputation for 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 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, 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, and Civic Reception would be submitted 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 star Listed Town Hall Extension. Whilst, this clearly

would be an accessible location for the general public concerns were raised about the likely views of Historic England who it is considered would object in terms of the harm to a heritage asset of locating potentially over time a large number of plaques onto the building. 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 has been considered. The existing pavement design throughout St. Peter's Square is already 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 by 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 and during the refurbishment works for the Town Hall would present significant logistical challenges.
- 4.5 The Town Hall Extension Council Chamber Ante room was considered the central wall is occupied by honorary freeman inscriptions, the space above the left hand door are inscriptions of honoured regiments and 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 access to the general public is currently 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 is considered an appropriate location for the Awards. Officers 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.