

## The Edinburgh Award

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### The City of Edinburgh Council

21 September 2006

#### 1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 This report explains the need for a new civic award, to be called 'The Edinburgh Award'. The report provides an outline framework for the award and seeks Council approval for the introduction of such an initiative.

#### 2. Main report

- 2.1 The City of Edinburgh Council, either on its own or in partnership with others, administers a very wide range of awards. The most prestigious award made by the Council is the award of 'The Freedom of the City of Edinburgh'. This is not an annual award, and is granted only in very rare circumstances and only following a Motion to the Council approved by a 75% majority.

- 2.2 The only living Freemen of the City are:

Presented July 1947	- HM The Queen
Presented March 1949	- HRH The Duke of Edinburgh
Presented June 1991	- Sir Sean Connery
Presented October 1997	- Mr Nelson Mandela
Presented in absentia June 2005	- Ms Aung San Suu Kyi

- 2.3 It is recognised that a number of awards already exist which recognise excellence in specific areas of Edinburgh life, these include the, the William Y Darling (Citizen of the Year) Award, the Celebration of Sporting Achievement Awards, the Evening News Business Excellence Awards, the Get Up and Go Award, the Standard Life Edinburgh Achievement Awards and the Bravery Awards.
- 2.4 While existing awards schemes address specific areas of Edinburgh life a gap exists. There is a need for an annual award, perhaps not quite as prestigious as 'the Freedom of the City', but which would recognise an individual's outstanding achievements and contribution to Edinburgh, especially, if these achievements cross the boundaries of existing awards or are not recognised elsewhere.

## **Proposal**

- 2.5 The new annual award 'The Edinburgh Award' would be bestowed on an individual:
- whose outstanding achievements have brought honour to Edinburgh
  - who is inventive, visionary, and embodies the rich diversity of Edinburgh
  - who was born in Edinburgh or is a resident in Edinburgh
  - who has been an inspiring humanitarian or world influencer in any field of life such as the sciences, technology, education, arts, business or charity.
- 2.6 It is suggested that 'The Edinburgh Award' would be in the form of a trophy, engraved with the recipient's name and the year the award was presented. Recipients of the award would be given an appropriate scroll/certificate or gift to keep.
- 2.7 In order to mark the fact that this award is seen as a lifetime award, it is proposed that the Edinburgh Award winner would be offered the opportunity to, for example attend civic receptions accompany the Council at the annual Kirking at St Giles Cathedral and take the salute with the Lord Provost at the Tattoo in the year of their award .
- 2.8 It is proposed that the first Edinburgh Award ceremony will take place in the City Chambers with invited guests and full Council attendance in March 2007.
- 2.9 Thereafter, it is suggested that there would be an annual 'Edinburgh Night of Awards' bringing together recipients of The Edinburgh Award as well as Edinburgh recipients of national awards, such as those mentioned at paragraph 2.1 and including the City of Literature Award.

## **Judging**

- 2.10 Nominations for the Edinburgh award would be made to and judged by a panel chaired by the Lord Provost with representatives from:

A cross party group of councillors  
Scotsman Publications  
Scottish Enterprise Edinburgh and Lothian

- 2.11 The panel may wish to invite a wider membership.

## **Administration**


- 2.12 Administration of the Edinburgh Award will be managed by the Events Unit in Corporate Communications.

### **3. Financial Implications**

- 3.1 The Executive of the Council and the Cross Party Member/Officer Group on Events have approved an allocation of £10,000 in the Cities Growth Fund events budget 2006/7 and costs would be contained within that.

### **4 Recommendations**

- 4.1 It is recommended that the Council;
- a) notes the contents of the report;
  - b) supports the broad principles of The Edinburgh Award as described, and
  - c) instructs the Director of Corporate Services to proceed with the necessary arrangements and present an update report to the Council at its meeting on 26 October 2006.

  
**Jim Inch**  
Director of Corporate Services  
12/09/06

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<b>Appendices</b>	None
<b>Contact/tel</b>	Jane Bremner, Senior Events Officer; Tel 529 7622
<b>Wards affected</b>	All
<b>Background Papers</b>	None