

Birmingham City Council

City Council

18 April 2023



Subject: City of Birmingham Medal
Report of: Council Business Management Committee
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Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? ☐ Yes ☒ No

If relevant, state which appendix is exempt, and provide exempt information paragraph number or reason if confidential:

1 Executive Summary

- 1.1 On 13 February 2023 Council Business Management Committee (CBMC) agreed to recommend to City Council, that a further civic award, to be known as the City of Birmingham Medal, be created.
- 1.2 Currently the City has two types of civic awards; the first is the Freedom of the City which can be conferred on both individuals and organisations. The second is the Lord Mayor awards which are bestowed by the Lord Mayor.
- 1.3 It is proposed that the City of Birmingham Medal will compliment both the Freedom of the City and the Lord Mayors award as a way to recognise outstanding achievement and contribution to the City and its citizens.

2 Recommendation(s)

- 2.1 To agree the creation of City of Birmingham Medal.
- 2.2 To agree the criteria and process for submitting a nomination.

3 Background

- 3.1 Currently the Council has two types of awards that recognise citizens, and organisations, for outstanding achievement or exceptional service/contribution to the City and the people of Birmingham.

- 3.2 Section 249 (5) of the Local Government Act 1972 enables the Council, at an extraordinary meeting called specifically for the purpose, to confer Freedom of the City and any such resolution must be passed by at least two thirds of members present and voting.
- 3.3 The Freedom of the City is the highest honour which the Council can bestow and this is reflected by the fact that it is used sparingly and should not be given too often to preserve its status and value.
- 3.4 Since 2010 the freedom of the City has only been award four times. Of those four occasions only one was to an individual (Peter Hollingworth in 2011).
- 3.5 In a similar way the Lord Mayor's award is based on merit and seeks to recognise "*outstanding achievement or exceptional service to the City*"
- 3.6 It should also be noted that the Lord Mayor's award will not be made simply for a "job well done" or because an individual has reached a particular level in their career.
- 3.7 The Lord Mayor's award is determined by the Lord Mayor in consultation with former Lord Mayors.
- 3.8 In order to consider how best to compliment both the awarding of the Freedom of the City and the Lord Mayors award, CBMC established a working group of members to consider options.
- 3.9 The recommendation to CBMC was to create the City of Birmingham Medal.

4. Nominations

- 4.1 Any person or organisation can be nominated for the City of Birmingham Medal by:
- A minimum of 10 elected members, which must consist of members from at least 2 political groups represented on the Council .
 - Any individual or organisation
- 4.2 Former Councillors should not ordinarily be considered as there is a separate statutory provision for conferring the title of 'Honorary Alderman' on former Councillors.

5. Criteria

- 5.1 When a nomination is submitted, those submitting will need to set out how any individual or organisation meets the following criteria:
- Any person, or organisation that has:
 - Brought distinction to the City.

- Enhanced the City's reputation either nationally or internationally
 - Contributed in a way to improve the lives of those within the City who need assistance
 - Demonstrated vision and entrepreneurship which is delivering results in the City.
- This can include significant contributions in any of the following areas:
- Artistic and cultural endeavours
 - Business, economic growth and prosperity
 - Charitable work
 - Improvement to the built and natural environment
 - Religious and spiritual life
 - Sports activities
 - Civic service

5.2 Wherever possible any nomination should be accompanied by supporting information.

6. Nomination process

- 6.1 All nominations are to be submitted, in the first instance, to the City Solicitor. The City Solicitor, in consultation with the Group Leaders, will thereafter prepare a report for CBMC to consider.
- 6.2 CBMC will then consider the nomination against the criteria set out in paragraph 5 above.
- 6.3 CBMC can then:
- Make a recommendation to Full Council to make an award.
 - Reject the application.
 - Seek further information prior to making a decision.
- 6.4 Similar to the conferring of the Freedom of the City, the meeting of City Council must pass a resolution agreed by at least two thirds of members present and voting.
- 6.5 Again, as per the conferring the Freedom of the City, and to reflect its status, the bestowing of the City of Birmingham Medal must be done by an extraordinary meeting upon a motion agreed by CBMC.

7. The City of Birmingham Medal

- 7.1 To recognise the awarding of the City of Birmingham Medal, it is proposed that a specially designed medal be commissioned, the design of which will be agreed in due course by CBMC.

- 7.2 To recognise the nature of the award, and to replicate the process for the other awards, the presentation of the medal should be by the Lord Mayor.
- 7.3 It should be a matter for CBMC on a case-by-case basis on the format of the presentation.

8. Legal Implications

- 8.1 There are no legal implications arising from this report.

9. Financial Implications

- 9.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report.

10. Public Sector Equality Duty

- 10.1 There are no equality implications arising from this report.

11. Background Papers

- 11.1 Report to Council Business Management Committee 13 February 2023