

# FAREHAM

## BOROUGH COUNCIL

### Report to the Executive for Decision

#### 01 March 2021

<b>Portfolio:</b>	Policy and Resources
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Citizens of Honour Nominations 2021</b>
<b>Report of:</b>	Director of Leisure and Community
<b>Corporate Priorities:</b>	Strong, safe, inclusive and healthy communities

**Purpose:**

As a direct response to the unprecedented events caused by the Covid-19 Pandemic, this report proposes an alternative to the annual Citizen and Young Citizen of Honour Awards for 2021.

**Executive summary:**

Established in 1996, the Citizen and Young Citizen of Honour Awards have honoured 107 residents of the Borough over the past 23 years with nominations being received from all areas of Fareham.

With regard to last year's awards, (2020), a decision was taken by the Executive to reduce the number of winners to just one for each of the two categories. This was due to the closure of Ferneham Hall, which is usually used for the annual Mayor Making ceremony each year, including the Citizen of Honour awards, and the intention to hold the event in a smaller venue. To date, the Mayor Making ceremony has not been able to take place due to Covid-19 restrictions, and the two winners for 2020 have yet to receive their awards.

It is proposed that, when current Covid-19 restrictions are relaxed and small groups of people are allowed to meet, a small reception is held with the Mayor within the Civic Offices for the two 2020 Citizen of Honour winners and a guest to receive their awards.

For 2021, in order to recognise the people and businesses who have played a key role in the Borough's response to the pandemic, it is proposed that the Council replaces the Citizen of Honour and Young Citizen of Honour Awards, for one year only, with 'Fareham's Covid Heroes'. It is proposed that the public nominate adults (over 18), young people (under 18) and organisations who have acted above and beyond to help individuals, charitable organisations and businesses during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Everyone nominated for the award would receive a certificate of appreciation, signed by the Mayor and the Executive Leader of the Council, as a gesture of thanks, which would be sent to each recipient by post.

There would also be up to five selected winners for each category of adult, young person and organisation, chosen by the Executive. All winners would receive a medal and entry into the Council's roll of honour.

The Citizen of Honour and Young Citizen of Honour awards will resume in 2022 but would cover the period 2021-2022 to ensure that any nominations received in 2021 can still be considered. As a result, it is proposed to increase the number of winners from one to two for each category.

**Recommendation/Recommended Option:**

It is recommended that the Executive agrees that:

- (a) the Citizen of Honour and Young Citizen of Honour Awards are rested for one year;
- (b) a new one-year initiative be approved to identify 'Fareham's Covid Heroes' which would have three categories: adult (over 18), young person (under 18) and organisations;
- (c) all those nominated will receive a Certificate of Appreciation, signed by the Mayor and the Executive Leader;
- (d) there will be five selected winners for each category; and
- (e) when the Citizen of Honour and Young Citizen of Honour awards resume in 2020, nominations can be made for non Covid-19 related actions or deeds that have occurred during the preceding two years (2020 and 2021).

**Reason:**

Whilst the Citizen of Honour and Young Citizen of Honour Awards are valuable initiatives for rewarding local residents, this has been an unprecedented year that has seen national lockdowns, tiers and restrictions. As a result, many vulnerable residents have needed, and received, help on an unprecedented scale, and many residents and organisations have responded wholeheartedly to meet this need.

A 'Covid Heroes' campaign will enable the Council to recognise many more of the community than the current award scheme allows.

**Cost of proposals:**

All associated costs regarding the Covid Heroes' initiative can be met from existing resources.

**Appendices:**

**A: Artwork for Covid Heroes' campaign**

**Background papers:**

**Reference papers:**

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## BOROUGH COUNCIL

### Executive Briefing Paper

<b>Date:</b>	01 March 2021
<b>Subject:</b>	Citizens of Honour Nominations 2021
<b>Briefing by:</b>	Director of Leisure and Community
<b>Portfolio:</b>	Leisure and Community

#### INTRODUCTION

1. Established in 1996, the Citizen and Young Citizen of Honour Awards have honoured 107 residents of the Borough over the past 23 years with nominations being received from all areas of Fareham.
2. To demonstrate the importance and distinction of these awards, they are presented to the winners at the Mayor Making Ceremony each year by the outgoing Mayor.
3. In 2020 it was not possible to hold a Mayor Making Ceremony due to the Covid-19 pandemic. As a result, although last year's winners know that they were successfully nominated and selected, they have not yet received their awards.
4. At its meeting on 16 December 2019, the Executive resolved to limit the award to one Citizen of Honour (over 18 years old) and one Young Citizen of Honour (under 18 years old) for the years 2020 and 2021 in order to reduce numbers attending the planned Mayor Making ceremony, which was due to be held in May 2021, but was subsequently cancelled
5. For 2021, in order to recognise the people and organisation who have played a key role in the Borough's response to the pandemic, it is proposed that the Council replaces the Citizen of Honour and Young Citizen of Honour Awards, for one year only, with 'Fareham's Covid Heroes'. It is proposed that the public nominate adults (over 18), young people (under 18) and organisations who have acted above and beyond to help individuals, charitable organisations and businesses during the Covid-19 pandemic.

#### HOW THE SCHEME WOULD WORK

6. Everyone nominated for the award would receive a certificate of appreciation, signed by the Mayor and the Executive Leader of the Council, as a gesture of thanks which would be sent to each recipient by post.
7. There would also be up to five selected winners for each category of adult, young person and organisation, chosen by the Executive. All winners would receive a medal and entry into the Council's roll of honour.

8. The Citizen of Honour and Young Citizen of Honour awards will resume in 2022 but would span the period 2021-2022 to ensure that any non Covid-19 related nominations received during that time can still be considered.
9. In order to encourage broad participation, a themed marketing campaign will be put in place (see Appendix A).
10. Letters to explain the same and encourage people to nominate others, along with leaflets and posters, will be sent to community centres, schools and libraries when appropriate to do so, and displayed on noticeboards throughout the Borough.
11. The awards will be promoted on Council Connect in Fareham Shopping Centre, include posters in all light boxes, and a video will run on the screens at various times in the run up to the closing date. The video will also be displayed on the screens in the reception area of the council, when the offices are once again opened to the public.
12. A social media campaign will support the offline promotion, and the initiative will feature on a new webpage which will also be advertised on a web banner on the homepage of the Council's website.

## **CRITERIA**

13. It is proposed that the criteria for nominations should vary for individuals and organisations. As with the Citizen of Honour awards, individuals nominated must be resident in Fareham. For organisations however, the proposed criteria is that they can be nominated for serving residents of Fareham.

## **NOMINATIONS**

14. The Executive will be asked to select up to five winners from each of the three categories to receive a medal or, in the case of organisations, an appropriate award, and be entered onto the Council's roll of honour.

## **TIMETABLE**

15. Subject to approval by the Executive, the 'Fareham Covid Heroes Awards' will be launched on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021 and run for a period of three months, closing on 30<sup>th</sup> June 2021.
16. As all nominees will receive a certificate, regardless of whether or not they are selected as a winner, these can be prepared on receipt of each nomination and forwarded to the Executive Leader and the Mayor on a regular basis for signing.
17. Certificates will be posted to recipients in July 2021, and all those nominated will be listed on the Council's website. Relevant permissions will be sought beforehand.

## **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

18. The funding of this awards scheme will continue to be met from existing resources.

## **PROPOSAL**

20. The Executive is requested to agree to rest the Citizen of Honour and Young Citizen of Honour Awards for one year and to approve the introduction of the 'Fareham Covid Heroes' award for 2021.

## **RISK ASSESSMENT**

21. There are no significant risk considerations in relation to this report.

## **CONCLUSION**

22. The Covid-19 pandemic has caused major disruption to people's lives throughout the last year and is impossible to ignore. Many community groups, charities, businesses and individuals of all ages across Fareham have worked tirelessly to support those in need, going above and beyond to help others at a very difficult time.
23. This report proposes a way for those who have been supported by others throughout the pandemic to express their thanks to those who have helped them, and also provides the Council with the opportunity to formally recognise and thank those who have helped residents of the Borough at such an unprecedented time.

### **Enquiries:**

For further information on this report please contact Jan Lasnon (Ex 4302)