

FAREHAM

BOROUGH COUNCIL

Report to the Executive for Decision 21 September 2021

Portfolio:	Policy & Resources
Subject:	COVID Heroes Awards Nominations
Report of:	Director of Leisure and Community
Corporate Priority:	Strong, safe, inclusive and healthy communities

Purpose:

This report presents nominations for consideration under the Council's special COVID Heroes award scheme 2021.

Executive summary:

It was agreed at the Executive Meeting on 1 March 2021 that the annual Citizen of Honour and Young Citizen of Honour Awards were rested for one year and replaced with a new one-year initiative – the COVID Heroes Awards.

The Council launched the COVID Heroes Awards scheme in April 2021, to recognise the organisations and individuals of all ages who worked tirelessly to support those in need during the COVID-19 pandemic. The COVID Heroes Awards take the place of the Council's annual 'Citizen and Young Citizen of Honour Awards' for one year only. There are three categories:

- Adults (over 18). In recognition of outstanding service to the community or contribution to helping the lives of others during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Young People (under 18). In recognition of outstanding personal achievements or becoming a role model to family, friends or the community.
- Organisations. In recognition of outstanding community service during the COVID-19 pandemic and going above and beyond to help the Fareham community.

The Council received 85 nominations overall. There are 53 nominations for the Adults category, eight nominations for the Young People category and 24 nominations in the organisations category. All those nominated will receive a Certificate of Appreciation, signed by the Mayor and the Executive Leader.

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

Recommendation/Recommended Option:

It is recommended that the Executive selects five candidates in each of the three categories from the attached nominations to be recognised in the COVID Heroes Awards 2021

Reason:

Due to the pandemic many vulnerable residents have needed, and received, help on an unprecedented scale, and many residents and organisations have responded wholeheartedly to meet this need. The COVID Heroes Awards were created to allow the Council to recognise the people and organisations who have stepped up. The scheme replaces Citizen of Honour awards for one year only.

Cost of proposals:

All associated costs regarding the COVID Heroes Awards will be met from existing resources.

Appendices:

**Appendix A – Confidential: COVID Heroes Awards Nominations 2021
Ages 18 and over**

**Appendix B – Confidential: COVID Heroes Awards Nominations 2021
Ages under 18**

**Appendix C - Confidential: COVID Heroes Awards Nominations 2021
Organisations**

Background papers:

Report to the Executive for Decision 01 March 2021

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BOROUGH COUNCIL

Executive Briefing Paper

Date:	21 September 2021
Subject:	COVID Heroes Awards 2021
Briefing by:	Director of Leisure and Community
Portfolio:	Policy and Resources

INTRODUCTION

1. It was agreed at the Executive Meeting on 1 March 2021 that the annual Citizen of Honour and Young Citizen of Honour Awards were rested for one year and replaced with a new one-year initiative – the COVID Heroes Awards.
2. The COVID Heroes Awards were launched in April 2021, to replace the Citizen of Honour Awards for one year only.
3. The primary reason for the awards is to recognise the exceptional circumstances caused by the pandemic and show the Council's gratitude to those individuals and organisations who have gone above and beyond to help others impacted by the crisis.
4. To demonstrate the importance and distinction of these awards, all winners will receive a medal and entry into the Council's roll of honour.
5. Everyone nominated for an award will receive a certificate of appreciation, signed by the Mayor and the Executive Leader of the Council, as a gesture of thanks. These will be sent to each recipient by post.
6. Winners from each category will receive a certificate and display medal. Presentation of these awards will depend on ongoing safety procedures following the pandemic and will be considered at a later date.

PUBLICITY AND PROMOTION

7. In order to encourage greater participation in the scheme a marketing campaign was implemented. A logo was created and used to promote the awards.
8. Due to the ongoing pandemic a strong social media campaign was used to promote the awards. Regular 'Tweets' and 'Posts' were placed on Twitter and Facebook to encourage nominations.
9. One Community helped to promote the awards through their newsletters and channels.
10. The awards were featured in the local press such as the Daily Echo.

11. All information about the scheme is on the Council's website and was shown on the main story rotator on the home page throughout the campaign.

NOMINATIONS FOR THE AWARDS

12. This year, the Council has received 85 nominations overall:
 - 8 nominations in the Young People Category
 - 53 nominations in the Adult Category
 - 24 nominations in the Corporate Category

OFFICIAL PRESENTATION OF AWARDS

13. Everyone nominated for the award will receive a certificate of appreciation, signed by the Mayor and the Executive Leader of the Council, as a gesture of thanks. The signed certificate will be sent to each recipient by post.
14. There will be five overall winners selected from the adult and young person categories, chosen by the Executive. All winners will receive a display medal and entry into the Council's roll of honour.
15. A large number of nominations were received for one particular organisation, all of which were very similar in nature. It is therefore proposed that one of the Organisation Awards is pre-allocated to this organisation due to the huge number of volunteers who worked on its behalf to assist the community throughout the pandemic. Therefore, only four additional organisations should be chosen by the Executive in this category.
16. It is usual practice for this report to outline details of an event to welcome winners to the Civic Offices to be presented their medals and certificates by the Mayor. However due to ongoing safety concerns following the pandemic this event will need to be considered and arranged separately from this report if appropriate at a future date.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

17. The funding of this awards scheme can be met from existing resources.

PROPOSAL

18. The Executive is requested to consider all the nominations as presented and select up to five successful winners from the Adult and Children categories, and four winners from the Organisation category, to be formally recognised as COVID Heroes 2021.

RISK ASSESSMENT

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

CONCLUSION

20. The COVID Heroes Awards recognises the exceptional circumstances caused by the pandemic and shows the Council's gratitude to those individuals and organisations who

have gone above and beyond to help others during these unprecedented times.

21. This report presents the strongest nominations for the COVID Heroes Awards and requests that the Executive considers and selects five winning nominees from each category.

Enquiries:

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