



COTSWOLD DISTRICT COUNCIL

Council name	COTSWOLD DISTRICT COUNCIL
Name and date of Committee	COUNCIL - 15 JULY 2020
Report Number	AGENDA ITEM (9)
Subject	COVID-19 COMMUNITY AWARDS SCHEME
Wards affected	ALL
Accountable member	Cllr Nigel Robbins - Chair of Council Email: nigel.robbins@cotswold.gov.uk
Accountable officer	Christine Gore – Interim Chief Executive Email: christine.gore@cotswold.gov.uk Tel: 01285 623605
Summary/Purpose	To consider options for a Covid-19 Community Awards Scheme and determine the preferred option in order that awards can be presented at a ceremony immediately prior to the November meeting of the Council.
Annexes	None
Recommendation/s	<i>To consider the options set out in the report for a Covid-19 Community Awards Scheme and determine the preferred option.</i>
Corporate priorities	Help residents, businesses and communities to access the support they need to ensure a high level of health and well-being.
Key Decision	NO
Exempt	NO
Consultees/ Consultation	None

1. BACKGROUND

At the Council meeting on 3 June 2020 it was resolved 'That officers be tasked with presenting suggestions for suitable Covid-19 Community Awards to the July 2020 Council'. Options for such a scheme are set out below.

2. MAIN POINTS

- 2.1. There are a number of issues to be considered in setting up a Covid-19 Community Awards Scheme, including how and what type of nominations should be made; who should be eligible to be nominated; how the nominations should be judged; and what the awards should consist of.
- 2.2. Nominations could be made by a completely open invitation to the public to nominate individuals or groups who they deem to be worthy of receiving an award to recognise their particular contribution to the community during the Covid-19 pandemic. Alternatively, all members of the council could be invited to nominate individuals or groups from within their ward.
- 2.3. In terms of the type of nomination, these could be totally open, category based, or locality based, for example south/north Cotswold, County Division or District Ward. Categories could be specific so that one award is made per category, similar to the Chairman's Award Scheme; alternatively, in view of the specific nature of the Covid-19 pandemic categories could be based on those groups of people who have been recognised across communities for their efforts, for example NHS champions, key-worker champions, community champions.
- 2.4. Nominees could be individuals, groups or organisations.
- 2.5. Judging is perhaps the most complex part of the process to determine. Determination of who should receive an award could simply be based upon the number of nominations received for a specific individual or group. Alternatively there could be a shortlisting process undertaken by officers, members or independently. For the Chairman's Awards the initial shortlisting was undertaken 'in-house' and then passed to GRCC for independent final judging.
- 2.6. Awards – a decision is required as to how many and what type of awards should be made. The number of awards may be dependent on decisions on the factors set out above, in terms of whether the scheme is totally open or, for instance, Ward based. The Awards themselves could be as simple as a certificate recognising the efforts of the winner, or could include a monetary element such as a High Street voucher or a voucher to be spent in a local shop of the winner's choice. The latter may require some negotiation as not all local shops operate voucher schemes, but on the other hand would be in support of the local economy.

To keep the scheme both straightforward and current, open nominations for ten individual awards, to be judged by a cross-Party panel of members with appropriate officer support, and with the Awards themselves consisting simply of a certificate in recognition of the winner's contribution during the Covid-19 crisis, would allow for the Awards to be made at an event which could be held immediately prior to the November meeting of Council.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

If the proposal set out in paragraph 2.7 were to be accepted, the total cost of the scheme including framed certificates and a drinks reception or buffet would be no more than £1500 which could be met from the Council's Priorities Fund.

4. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no legal implications associated with this report.

5. RISK ASSESSMENT

There are no risks associated with this report.

6. EQUALITIES IMPACT

- 6.1. All members of the community will be eligible to be nominated for the Awards.

7. CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1. There are no climate change implications associated with this report.

8. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 8.1. A range of options have been set out in the report.

9. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 9.1. None

(END)