

Report on	Report of Civic Recognition Working Group August 2023
Date of Meeting	Thursday 7 th September 2023
Reporting Officer	Joseph McGuckin, Head of Strategic Services & Engagement
Contact Officer	Joseph McGuckin, Head of Strategic Services & Engagement

Is this report restricted for confidential business? If 'Yes', confirm below the exempt information category relied upon	Yes	
	No	x

1.0	Purpose of Report
1.1	The report provides the outworking's of the most recent Civic Recognition Working Group meetings held on 9 th & 31 st August 2023.
2.0	Background
2.1	Arrangements to allow for the provision of civic recognition have been in place since the early years of this Council. These have been in place since November 2015 with current arrangements being developed because of a review and refinement in 2018.
2.2	The Civic Recognition and Working Group met on 22 nd November 2023 and agreed that the Councils current Civic Recognition arrangements should be reviewed and a new way forward considered.
2.3	At the Council meeting held on 22 nd June 2023, it was further agreed that the current process would pause for review with immediate effect and that officers would prepare an options paper for the way forward.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	The most recent meetings of the Civic Recognition Working Group was held on 9 th August 2023 & 31 st August 2023. (Report of these meetings are attached as Appendix A & Appendix B)
3.2	Members in attendance were provided with a consideration paper highlighting a proposal for the way forward taking an approach for Mid Ulster District Council Awards type evenings to include Business & Environment Awards, Sports Awards and Arts, Culture and Civic Achievement Awards.
3.3	Members discussed the way forward and agreed this was the most suitable approach to progress with Civic Recognition. The following was discussed and recommended:

3.4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chairs & Vice-Chair Receptions are provided separately from Civic Awards and have sole discretion during their Terms of Office to anyone whom they believe merits the honour. • It was agreed that officers would work further with relevant directorates on the criteria for evaluation of awards for 3 Civic Awards Nights and those nominated should meet the criteria set within the category to be considered. • Awards Ceremonies to be prestigious with the Master of Ceremonies chosen from district for example a local sports personality, business leader etc • It was agreed that nominations will use an 'open' public nomination scheme which will require completion of an online application. • It was agreed that there can be multiple winners on the night for a particular award if they all meet the agreed threshold by the judging panel. • Consideration should be given to the composition of the judging panel regarding number of External Independent Members and whether Elected members should form part of the judging panel. This in turn should be brought back to working group for consideration and approval. • It is proposed that 2/3 Civic Awards Ceremonies will be held each Calendar Year. • To promote Councils Arts & Heritage venues the ceremonies will be held in and rotated across these. • It was agreed that trophies/awards should be considered further by the CRWG and that samples should be sought from local manufacturers within the Mid Ulster Council Area. • Councils Marketing & Communications team will undertake promotion and social media of the overall Civic Awards, categories, nomination process and Awards Ceremonies through Councils social media channels, website and papers including promotional launch with Chair. • The current limited budget for roll out of the events may need further consideration by the working group. • It was agreed that in this financial year we will run one Pilot Sports Awards in February 2024. We will in turn take the learning from this in advance of roll out of the other Awards nights the following year. <p>The responsibility for roll out of the Civic Awards will be administered through the Chief Executive Business Support who in turn will work with named directorates for Evaluation process of awards.</p>
4.0	Other Considerations
4.1	<p>Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications</p> <p>Financial: N/A</p> <p>Human: Officer time</p> <p>Risk Management: N/A</p>
4.2	Screening & Impact Assessments

	Equality & Good Relations Implications: N/A
	Rural Needs Implications: N/A
5.0	Recommendation(s)
5.1	It is recommended that Members consider and approve the approach and recommendations of the Civic Recognition Working Group meetings held on 9 th & 31 st August 2023.
6.0	Documents Attached & References
	Appendix A: Report of Civic Recognition Working Group 9 th August 2023 Appendix B: Report of Civic Recognition Working Group 31 st August 2023