

**REPORT OF THE GROUP MANAGER, CULTURAL AND ENRICHMENT
SERVICES****NOTTINGHAMSHIRE SPORTS AWARDS****Purpose of the Report**

1. To seek approval for the County Council to host the annual Nottinghamshire Sports Awards on 12 February 2013.

Information and Advice

2. The Sports Awards are a way in which the County Council supports and celebrates the achievements of local people. Whilst celebrating success the event also recognises the invaluable contribution of the voluntary sports sector to life in Nottinghamshire. The event, to be held at the East Midlands Conference Centre on the evening of 12 February 2013 will be the 21st of its kind organised by the Council and will focus on Nottinghamshire sporting achievements between October 2011 and October 2012.
3. Alongside other sporting achievements the event will provide a fitting opportunity to celebrate the fine achievements of our Olympic and Paralympic athletes, coaches and officials who have performed magnificently in the London 2012 games. The event will also be an opportunity to recognise the many volunteers and coaches that support thousands of people who are actively engaged in sport across Nottinghamshire.
4. The Sports Awards also link to smaller events organised by district and borough councils. Their winners, alongside other nominations made via the Council's website, will help make up the long list which will be judged to a short-list of five in each category. Finalists and winners will be announced live on the evening. Where appropriate the County winners are passed to the BBC East Midlands for inclusion in their Sports Awards with two categories going forward for national recognition. The County Council event is therefore a key link in the recognition of those who contribute to sport in the County.
5. The categories for the Awards reflect the work of individuals and teams towards the success of community sport and the diverse categories recognise as many key roles in local sport as possible. There is also a new award this year which aims to recognise the best sporting project. The Awards include:
 - Junior Team
 - Young Coach
 - Junior Sportsperson
 - Young Volunteer
 - Junior Disabled Sportsperson
 - Team of the Year
 - Coach of the Year – Performance

- Coach of the Year – Community
 - Sportsperson
 - Volunteer of the Year
 - Disabled Sportsperson
 - Roll of Honour
 - Club of the Year
 - Sporting School of the Year
 - Project of the Year
6. A review of the event is undertaken each year to suggest changes to programming and to establish the most appropriate venue for the event. In the past two years the event has been hosted at The Becket School and has been attended by around 300 people. It is felt however that this year's event should be moved to a venue that can cater for around 500 people to accommodate the increased demand for tickets that is prevalent during an Olympic / Paralympic year. Officers have secured the purpose built facilities at the East Midlands Conference Centre to ensure that demand will be met.
7. The Awards evening will take the form of the presentation of 15 Awards segmented with video presentations that highlight the Nottinghamshire sporting year. Guests will be provided with light refreshments on the evening and a souvenir programme. The event is traditionally supported by sports men and women from the professional club network who contribute to the evening by presenting Awards.

Other Options Considered

8. Consideration was given to hosting the event for a third year at The Becket School but it was felt that this venue would not be suitable for a sports review that includes Olympic and Paralympic achievements.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

9. The awards are attended by 500 guests from across sporting and public life and offer an opportunity for the County Council to publicly show its support to those who contribute to sport in the County. It also clearly identifies in the minds of the public the connection between our investment and sporting achievement at grassroots and elite level.

Statutory and Policy Implications

10. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of finance, equal opportunities, human resources, crime and disorder, human rights, the safeguarding of children, sustainability and the environment and those using the service and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

Financial Implications

11. The cost of the event includes hire of the conference centre, production of videos and audio visual support on the evening, light refreshments for guests, trophies, programmes and the services of a professional compere. It is estimated the cost of the event will be £16,000. £15,000 is allocated in the Cultural Services sports budget for 2012/2013 and £1,000 of sponsorship has already been secured.

RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1) That the County Council hosts the annual Nottinghamshire Sports Awards on the evening of 12 February 2013 at the East Midlands Conference Centre.

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Constitutional Comments (SG 17/09/12)

12. The Committee has responsibility for authorising hospitality to be offered by the County Council except where the cost is to be covered by the Chairman of the County Council's individual budget (paragraph 55(d) of the Terms of Reference). The Committee is the appropriate body to decide on the issues set out in this report.

Financial Comments (NDR 10/09/12)

13. The financial implications are set out in paragraph 11 of the report.

Background Papers

None.

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All.

C0074