

SCOTTISH PUBLIC SERVICE AWARDS

Executive Summary

1. Parliamentary officials have received an approach from Holyrood Magazine for the SPCB's support as a key partner for their inaugural Scottish Public Service Awards to be held in early December 2014.

Background

2. The Awards would build on the success of the UK Civil Service Awards now in its 9th year, and by Holyrood Magazine's parent company Dods plc. and supported by the UK Cabinet Office. The UK Awards are now very much a part of the public sector calendar offering the opportunity to celebrate outstanding achievements with the civil service and have become a prestigious event having been hosted by Her Majesty The Queen and HRH Duke of Edinburgh at Buckingham Palace in 2010 and addressed by the Prime Minister every year since 2006.
3. The Scottish Awards would go further than the Civil Service awards and would focus on good practice in the wider public services beyond the civil service and recognise the work that goes on sometimes very much behind the scenes. It would also highlight and celebrate leadership across the public service. It would be presented as filling a space not covered by the CoSLA and NHS Awards.

Awards

4. There would be a limited number of high profile awards, which will gain sponsorship and reward good practice in the civil service, Parliament, civil society and in communities, with a balance between senior and front line awards. If the SPCB were to support these Awards we would be able to influence the scope of awards.
5. The Awards would cover the Public Sector, government organisations including Scottish Parliament, Scottish Government, UK Government in Scotland, Agencies and Non Departmental Public Bodies and civil society. Categories could include innovation, diversity and equality, community empowerment, communications, leadership etc.

Judges

6. The Scottish Government is in principal supportive of these Awards if the SPCB are also supportive. If jointly supported by the Scottish Parliament and Scottish Government, and potentially Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations (SCVO) representing Civil Society we would recommend key roles for the Presiding Officer and Paul Grice,

Clerk/Chief Executive as judges alongside the Permanent Secretary and a Director General and some externals for example Chief Executive, SCVO and the Auditor General.

Award Ceremony

7. It will be an early evening drinks reception similar in format to the Civil Service Awards, and follow a Holyrood Conference on Public Services during the day. If supported by the SPCB we would recommend that the Presiding Officer co-host the Award ceremony with the First Minister in the Scottish Parliament's Garden Lobby and that the Presiding Officer present one of the main awards.

Discussion

8. This is an opportunity to celebrate the outstanding work done by the public sector, Civic Scotland and other public service bodies, which is often unseen and too often unrecognised. There are currently no specific awards in Scotland that recognise the work of these sectors and others outwith local government and NHS.
9. The awards if jointly supported by the Scottish Parliament and Government will provide a mechanism to promote the corporate reputation of the Parliament and provide a platform for the recognition of much valued effort and hard work.

Communications Approach

10. The awards offer a positive opportunity to engage with civic Scotland and the public sector directly, positioning the Parliament as strong supporters of best practice and innovation. That said, the event offers limited public or media engagement unless there is an active opportunity for them to either influence the outcome of an award or nominate organisations/individuals.

Resource Implications

11. There are no direct costs to the SPCB supporting this initiative as all costs for organising the awards and the awards ceremony would be met by Holyrood Magazine through sponsorship.

Publication Scheme

12. This Paper should only be published after the formal announcement of the Scottish Public Service Awards.

Next Steps

13. If the SPCB is supportive of this initiative and is content to jointly support with the Scottish Government, the inaugural Scottish Public

Service Awards, parliamentary officials will liaise with Holyrood Magazine and Scottish Government staff over the award categories, judging panel, process for nominations and applications and all the necessary planning and delivery for the ceremony itself.

Decision

14. The SPCB is invited to consider this Paper and to consider whether it supports the inaugural Scottish Public Service Awards and agrees that the Presiding Officer co-host the Award Ceremony in the Scottish Parliament's Garden Lobby in early December 2014.

EVENTS AND EXHIBITIONS TEAM

May 2014