

**Classification:** Public

**Key Decision:** No

## Gravesham Borough Council

**Report to:** Full Council

**Date:** 05 December 2023

**Reporting officer:** Stuart Bobby, Chief Executive

**Subject:** Council Awards Update

### **Purpose and summary of report:**

To provide Members with an update on the progress the council has made in the submission of entries for awards schemes to date.

### **Recommendations:**

None – the report is for information only.

<b>Key Implications:</b>	
<b>Item</b>	<b>Implications</b>
<b>Legal</b>	There are no legal implications resulting from this report.
<b>Finance and Value for Money</b>	There are no financial or value for money implications resulting from this report.
<b>Corporate Plan</b>	The detail within this report covers all aspects of the Corporate Plan.
<b>Climate Change</b>	The awards set out within this report have specific categories relating to the council's response to climate change.

## **1. Introduction**

- 1.1 Since the start of the 2022 calendar year, the council has been actively seeking to put forward submissions to the various awards that are open to public sector bodies, with success in a number of areas.
- 1.2 The purpose of this report is to provide an update to Members on the work that has been completed over the past 18 months in terms of awards submissions and to highlight the forthcoming awards schemes for information.

## 2. Council Awards Update

- 2.1 Appendix one provides a summary of the outcomes of the awards submissions along with the detailed list of submissions made since the council started entering the various awards schemes. In summary:
- 2.1.1 The council has entered a total of 85 submissions to the various awards schemes:
- 2021-22 18 submissions
  - 2022-23 53 submissions
  - 2023-24 (to date) 16 submissions
- 2.1.2 The council has been successful in the awards submissions as follows:
- Winners: 7 awards
  - Finalists: 15 awards (nb: the award highlighted in grey in appendix one is still to be announced at the end of November 2023)
  - Commendations: 8 awards
- 2.2 This information will support the council in its next Investors in People assessment, specifically in relation to the *Reward and Recognition* section.
- 2.3 In addition to the success the council has achieved with the awards, there have also been a number of other benefits that have been experienced as a result of the awards:
- 2.3.1 One of the most positive aspects of the awards submissions, and the council's success in these, is that it has given council officers the opportunity to showcase their hard work. This has given them invaluable experience in public speaking and has really helped to build individual's confidence.
- 2.3.2 Officers have been invited to speak at a number of industry events, showcasing the work of the council such as the APSE Building Maintenance Seminar, the Institute of Revenues Rating & Valuation seminar and the Kent Housing Group Asset Management Group.
- 2.3.3 In respect of the LIFT project, the Head of Revenues and Benefits was personally invited to attend the House of Lords for a discussion on Universal Credit by Baroness Lister. Leading members of parliament namely Sir Iain Duncan Smith and Jonathan Ashworth were in attendance and the work of the council was displayed along with a quote from one of our residents.
- 2.3.4 The profile of the council has been raised significantly and featured in articles in *The Guardian*, specifically in relation to the LIFT project.
- 2.4 The work of the council in a number of fields has also been used as a learning tool by other local authorities in developing their own approaches to specific projects.
- 2.5 Progress in awards submissions, commendations and awards won by the Council over the past 12 months has been showcased in the Autumn 2023 edition of Your Borough which is delivered to every household in the Borough.

### **3. Next steps**

- 3.1 The intention is to continue to prepare submissions for the various awards schemes, in collaboration with officers across the council..
- 3.2 In January 2024, there are submission deadlines for three specific awards that are seen as the overarching public sector awards for local government:
  - 3.2.1 The LGC Awards (deadline 15 December 2023, submissions opened 02 October 2023);
  - 3.2.2 iESE Public Sector Transformation Awards (deadline 12 January 2024, submissions opened 04 September 2023); and
  - 3.2.3 The MJ Awards (deadline 26 January 2024, submissions opened 19 October 2023)
- 3.3 Council officers will be reviewing the criteria for each of the categories in the respective public sector awards and identifying potential projects to put forward for consideration.

### **4. Appendices**

- 4.1 The following documents are to be published with the report:
  - Appendix one – award submission information.

### **5. Background Documents**

- 5.1 There are no background documents.

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<b>Secondary Implications</b>	
<b>Risk Assessment</b>	There are no risks associated with this report.
<b>Data Protection Impact Assessment</b>	<i>A data protection impact assessment (DPIA) should be carried out at the start of any major project involving the use of personal data or if you are making a significant change to an existing process.</i>
	<p>a. Does the project/change being recommended through this paper involve the processing of <a href="#">personal data</a> or <a href="#">special category data</a> or <a href="#">criminal offence data</a>? A definition of each type of data can be found on the Information Commissioner's Office website via the above links. N/A</p>
	<p>b. If yes to question a, have you completed and attached a DPIA including Data Protection Officer advice? N/A</p>
	<p>c. If no to question b, please seek advice from your nominated DPIA assessor or the Information Governance Team at <a href="mailto:gdpr@medway.gov.uk">gdpr@medway.gov.uk</a>. N/A</p>
<b>Equality Impact Assessment</b>	<p>a. Does the decision being made or recommended through this paper have potential to cause adverse impact or discriminate against different groups in the community? If yes, please explain answer. No</p>
	<p>b. Does the decision being made or recommended through this paper make a positive contribution to promoting equality? If yes, please explain answer. No</p>
	<i>In submitting this report, the Chief Officer doing so is confirming that they have given due regard to the equality impacts of the decision being considered, as noted in the table above</i>
<b>Crime and Disorder</b>	There are no crime and disorder implications resulting from this report.
<b>Digital and website implications</b>	There are no digital and website implications resulting from this report.
<b>Safeguarding children and vulnerable adults</b>	There are no safeguarding children and vulnerable adults implications resulting from this report.