

OPEN AGENDA

Copy No:

No: 74/2020

Memorandum for Executive Council

SUBJECT

A Proposal for the Recognition of Exceptional Service by non-Saints

Memorandum by the Chief Secretary

ADVICE SOUGHT

1. Council is asked to advise whether the attached proposal for the recognition of exceptional service by non-Saints should be taken forward by the local Honours Committee in consultation with the Attorney General's Chambers and the Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office and:

- a) Authorise the existing Honours Committee to prepare nomination criteria for a Badge of St Helena and an honorary citizen designation and to work with the Attorney General's Chambers to develop an appropriate legal basis for granting the new awards, their citations and usage
- b) Permit the Honours Committee to hold a design competition on St Helena to produce a locally prepared design for the obverse and reverse sides of a Badge of St Helena
- c) To request the Honours Committee submits the designs and arrangements for the awards to Legislative Council within three months

BACKGROUND & CONSIDERATIONS

2. The Certificate and Badge of Honour is an award which HE the Governor may give to public servants for loyal and valuable service worthy of recognition, or in the case of other persons, for their loyal and meritorious conduct that has provided exceptional benefit to the people of St Helena. The St Helena Honours Committee advises and recommends to the Governor prospective recipients of the Badge. The criteria for this award is that nominees should be residents of St Helena, either being born on the Island or have been residing on St Helena for not less than 10 years prior to the date of the award; this requirement is set out in the attached St Helena Statutory Rules and Orders No. 24 of 1957 (Annex A). As such, this award is not available to non-Saints and short-term residents. The award of the Certificate and Badge of Honour has been awarded regularly since 2010.

3. The attached document at Annex B details a proposal for the recognition of outstanding contribution to the public life of St Helena by non-Saints and/or non-long term residents. Two

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opportunities for recognition are described:

- a) A parallel award to the Badge of Honour for non-Saints/non-residents; a Badge of St Helena
- b) An honorary citizen designation with defined limitations

4. The award of a 'Badge of St Helena' would enable the Island to express gratitude to non-residents and could also be a way in which to develop global networks. It would recognise contributions for non-Saints to public life, research, philanthropy, literature and the promotion and support provided to the culture, heritage and development of the island.

5. An 'Honorary Citizen' would be a symbolic designation and is generally bestowed by a country or territory on a native or foreign individual whom it considers to be especially admirable or otherwise worthy of the distinction. It would only be offered rarely and consequently considered of high value. It would not confer a right to vote or settle. honorary citizen designation could be offered in very exceptional cases, where an individual has made a contribution to the Island that merits very special recognition. The individual could possibly also be eligible for the Badge of St Helena if a particular circumstance warranted further recognition.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

6. There are likely to be some minor financial implications associated with the design of a Certificate and Badge of St Helena, as well as minor recurrent budget financial implications. This will not be significant.

ECONOMIC IMPLICATIONS

7. No economic implications.

CONSISTENCY WITH INVESTMENT POLICY PRINCIPLES

8. Not applicable.

PUBLIC/SOCIAL IMPACT

9. There could be some public sensitivity about a non-St Helenian being awarded a Badge of St Helena or Honorary Citizen. An Honorary Citizen could be wrongly interpreted by some as a back road into citizenship without residency.

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ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT 10. No environmental implications associated with this Memorandum.

PREVIOUS CONSULTATION/ COMMITTEE INPUT 11. No previous consultation.

PUBLIC REACTION 12. Public reaction is likely to be mixed. There will be some in favour of such an award that is regulated via the Honours Committee, whilst there may be others with contrary opinions.

PUBLICITY 13. ExCo's decision should be covered in the media briefing following the meeting. Separate publicity should follow if the proposal is taken forward. Publicity would focus on explaining the purpose of the award, its use for *exceptional* contributions, potentially eligibility and the proposed design competition.

SUPPORT TO STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES 14. This is not a strategic matter.

LINK TO SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN GOALS 15. Not applicable.

IMPLEMENTATION OF POLICY/ LEGISLATION 16. This is not applicable for this Memorandum.

OPEN/CLOSED AGENDA ITEM 17. For discussion in the Open session.

SO'B

Corporate Support
Corporate Services

22nd October 2020

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