

**REPORT TO: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE
ON 17 JUNE 2008**

**SUBJECT: MORAY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE ANNUAL CORPORATE
DINNER**

BY: DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

1. REASON FOR REPORT

- 1.1 To advise the Council of a request from the Moray Chamber of Commerce that the Council be invited to continue to sponsor an Annual Corporate Dinner and Business Award, and to seek approval for a financial contribution.
- 1.2 This report is submitted to the Moray Council in terms of the Administrative Scheme (II)(20) and the Administrative Scheme D (9).

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Council agrees to financial support of £1,500 per year for this current financial year and the next two financial years, that it supports the proposal for the Business Award, and agrees to attendance at the Annual Dinner at a table of 8, with representation to be agreed with the Chief Executive and Convener of the Council.**

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The Moray Chamber of Commerce holds an Annual Corporate Dinner, and in 2004 introduced the presentation of an Award in order to recognise the contribution of a Moray business or individual to the local economy. In 2005 the Council agreed to make a financial contribution of £1,500 in each of the years 2005, 2006, 2007.
- 3.2 The Chamber of Commerce has requested the Council to consider continuation of a further three year package of £4,500, in total, comprising £1,500 per year whereby the Council would provide this money to the Chamber and become a sponsor of the Award. The Council would then be a participant in and receive publicity which goes along with the Award and such sponsorship. Additionally the Council would be given a table for 8 people at the Annual Dinner.
- 3.3 The Council has been represented by Councillors and Officers at the Annual Dinners. The event is an important date in the calendar for the Chamber of Commerce, and for promotion of and recognising the local economy in Moray. The event is well attended by local businesses, and is a very useful opportunity for contact with business, and maintaining a working relationship with those businesses. The Council is active in supporting the local economy at all levels, including representation regarding major issues, in addition to supporting studies and projects which help maintain and improve the infrastructure and development of the local economy. There is currently no

local Business Award of this magnitude which is associated with the Moray Council.

4. THE PROPOSALS

- 4.1 It is proposed that The Moray Council continues to support the proposal for a local Business Award, as a means of recognising and rewarding the skills and achievements of local businesses or individuals to the Moray economy. This would not only provide appropriate recognition of those achievements, but also promote the local economy of Moray, and the interests of The Moray Council in the wider business and public arena.
- 4.2 It is also proposed that the Council supports the Award financially for three years, as this will give some medium-term security of funding to the Chamber, and will also remove the need for the Council to consider such requests on an annual basis.

5. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

(a) Corporate Development Plan/Community Plan/Service Improvement Plan

The proposal will support the proposals in the Corporate Development Plan regarding helping local businesses.

(b) Policy and Legal

There are no implications.

(c) Resources (Financial, Risks, Staffing and Property)

There are no staffing implications, risks or property arising from this report.

The request is for a sum of £1,500 per year for a period of 3 years. This could be met from the Council's Economic Development Budget, which is £505,000 p.a. which currently has commitments for £238,590 in 2008/09, and for £189,075 in 2009/10 and £160,000 in 2010/11. Approval of this proposal would commit funding from that budget of an additional £1,500 in each of the years 2008/9, 2009/10, 2010/11.

(d) Consultations

Deborah Brands, Principal Accountant has been consulted and agrees with the financial implications of the report.

6. CONCLUSION

- 6.1 The Council's support for the Awards and Annual Dinner will help raise the profile of the best of Moray's businesses and the Council's involvement in local economic development.**

Author of Report: Stewart Halkett, Head of Development Services
Background Papers:
Ref: SH/JC