

**REPORT TO: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES
COMMITTEE ON 8 DECEMBER 2009**

**SUBJECT: MORAY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE ANNUAL BUSINESS
AWARD**

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 is invited to continue to sponsor the Annual Business Award and to seek approval for a financial contribution.
- 1.4 This report is submitted to Committee in terms of the Council's Administrative Scheme (II) (20) and the Administrative Scheme D (9).

2. RECOMMENDATION

2.1 It is recommended that the Committee agrees to:

(a) Sponsor the Annual Business Award, with a sum of £1,500 each year, for the next three financial years, with attendance at the Annual Dinner with representation to be agreed, in consultation with the Convener and the Chief Executive.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The Annual Moray Chamber of Commerce Business Award is held in order to recognise the contribution of a Moray business or individual to the local economy. The Council has regularly contributed £1,500 towards the event, this sum being used to sponsor the annual award. The Council representatives at the annual award have included the Convener, other Councillors and Officers of the Council.
- 3.2 The Council is active in supporting the local economy at all levels and the dinner provides an opportunity for contact with businesses. There is currently no other local Business Award of this calibre which is associated with The Moray Council. At the recent awards, it included representatives of schools who have won the 'Schools Enterprise Award'.
- 3.3 The Chamber also actively promotes Moray and its businesses through a number of publications, and has recently promoted Moray as a tourist destination through a delegation from the Chamber visiting Holland.

4. THE PROPOSALS

- 4.1 It is proposed that the Council continues to support the proposal for a Local Business Award financially for three years, 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 a wider business and public arena. It will also provide some medium-term security of funding for the Chamber to strengthen its Business Award initiative.

5. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

(a) Single Outcome Agreement/Service Improvement Plan

The proposals contribute to the Single Outcome Agreement of the Community Planning Partnership with the Scottish Government in respect of the 'Outcomes' allocated to the 'Wealthier and Fairer' Group and the stated priorities of the Council's Plan for 2008-2011 in relation to the economy, jobs and tourism. The proposals will contribute to the Council's priorities of economic development and tourism.

(b) Policy and Legal

There are no legal implications as a result of this report.

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

Financial

The request is for a sum of £1,500 per year for a period of three years for the financial years 2010/2011, 2011/2012 and 2012/2013. This figure includes the sponsorship of the Business Award and attendance at the Annual Chamber Dinner. Subject to budgetary consideration, the funding can be met from the Council's Economic Development budget.

Risks

There are no risks arising from this report.

Staffing

There are no staffing implications arising from this report.

Property

There is no property implications arising from this report.

(d) Consultations

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

6. CONCLUSION

ITEM:

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6.1 The Council's support for the Awards Sponsorship will help raise the profile of the best of Moray's businesses and the Council's involvement in promoting economic development.

Author of Report: Mairi McIntosh, Development Officer

Background Papers: None.

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