

AGENDA ITEM

REPORT TO CABINET

4 SEPTEMBER 2014

**REPORT OF CORPORATE
MANAGEMENT TEAM**

CABINET DECISION

Leader of the Council – Councillor Cook

APSE AWARDS 2014

1. Summary

APSE (The Association for Public Service Excellence) will announce the winners of its Annual Service Awards for local authorities and their public sector partners later this month. These are among the most prestigious awards schemes available to local authorities in the UK, providing the opportunity to showcase excellence across a wide range of functions.

Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council has supported these awards for most of the 15 years of their existence, and has been successful in several individual categories over the years, culminating in being named Overall Council of the Year in 2010.

In April this year, Stockton submitted applications for eleven award categories, and has recently been advised that it has been successfully shortlisted for eight separate categories and is one of only ten local authorities shortlisted for the Overall Council of the Year in the APSE Awards 2014.

2. Recommendation

It is recommended that the continued success of Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council being identified as an excellent Council through the shortlisting for eight separate categories and the Overall Council of the Year in the APSE Awards 2014 is noted.

3. Reasons for the Recommendation/Decision

To advise Members of the success of Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council in being shortlisted for eight separate categories and the Overall Council of the Year in the APSE Awards 2014.

4. Members' Interests

Members (including co-opted Members) should consider whether they have a personal interest in any item, as defined in **paragraphs 9 and 11** of the Council's code of conduct and, if so, declare the existence and nature of that interest in accordance with and/or taking account of **paragraphs 12 - 17** of the code.

Where a Member regards him/herself as having a personal interest, as described in **paragraph 16** of the code, in any business of the Council he/she must then, **in**

accordance with paragraph 18 of the code, consider whether that interest is one which a member of the public, with knowledge of the relevant facts, would reasonably regard as so significant that it is likely to prejudice the Member's judgement of the public interest and the business:-

- affects the members financial position or the financial position of a person or body described in **paragraph 17** of the code, or
- relates to the determining of any approval, consent, licence, permission or registration in relation to the member or any person or body described in **paragraph 17** of the code.

A Member with a personal interest, as described in **paragraph 18** of the code, may attend the meeting but must not take part in the consideration and voting upon the relevant item of business. However, a member with such an interest may make representations, answer questions or give evidence relating to that business before the business is considered or voted on, provided the public are also allowed to attend the meeting for the same purpose whether under a statutory right or otherwise (**paragraph 19** of the code).

Members may participate in any discussion and vote on a matter in which they have an interest, as described in **paragraph 18** of the code, where that interest relates to functions of the Council detailed in **paragraph 20** of the code.

Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

It is a criminal offence for a member to participate in any discussion or vote on a matter in which he/she has a disclosable pecuniary interest (and where an appropriate dispensation has not been granted) **paragraph 21** of the code.

Members are required to comply with any procedural rule adopted by the Council which requires a member to leave the meeting room whilst the meeting is discussing a matter in which that member has a disclosable pecuniary interest (**paragraph 22** of the code)

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RECOMMENDATION

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DETAIL

1. There are twenty individual APSE Awards categories as below:

- 7 x best initiatives;
- 3 x best partnership working;
- 9 x best service teams of the year; and
- 1 x Overall Council of the Year.

In April 2014, Stockton made eleven separate 2,000 word submissions for individual award categories, consisting of:

- a one page executive summary;
- background to the initiative/service development (aims and objectives);
- evidence of improvements achieved and challenges overcome;
- how the initiative links to the wider council objectives; and
- targets for the future and the framework within which they operate.

2. APSE advised at the end of July 2014 that there had been over 375 submissions received with 135 organisations taking part from across England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales. 95% of the competing organisations were local authorities, with the remainder being fire and rescue services, housing providers and other governmental bodies.

Against this impressive level of competition, APSE have advised that Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council has been shortlisted for the following awards categories:

- **Best Housing and Regeneration Initiative**
“Mandale – Celebrating 10 Years of Regeneration”;
- **Best Health and Well-being Initiative (including Social Care)**
“Community Bridge Building”;
- **Best Public/Voluntary Partnership Working**
“The Step Change Project” (VCS Investment Fund);
- **Best Community and Neighbourhood Initiative (including Community Safety)**
“The Spirit of Stockton”;
- **Best Service Team of the Year – Catering Services;**
- **Best Service Team of the Year - Waste Management and Recycling Services;**
- **Best Service Team of the Year - Parks, Grounds and Horticultural Services;**
- **Best Service Team of the Year - Sports, Leisure and Cultural Services; and**
- **Overall Council of the Year Award.**

3. Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council’s eight shortlistings for individual awards categories is the highest number awarded to any local authority this year. The full list of the ten authorities shortlisted for the Overall Council of the Year Award and the number of individual awards categories that they are shortlisted for is provided below:

- Carmarthenshire County Council (3);
- City of Edinburgh Council (4);
- Fife Council (3);
- London Borough of Havering (5);
- North Ayrshire Council (6);
- Nottingham City Council (6);
- Oxford City Council (6);
- Peterborough City Council (3);
- South Lanarkshire Council (3); and
- Stockton on Tees Borough Council (8).

4. The winners of the awards will be announced at the APSE Awards 2014 in Nottingham on Thursday, 11 September 2014. Reaching the shortlist for these individual categories is an achievement in itself and a testament to the quality of the services provided and the hard work and commitment of employees. To actually win one or more these individual awards categories against nationwide competition would be a tremendous achievement and a great appreciation for the people involved.

5. Members will be notified of the outcome of the awards and copies of the submissions are available from the contact officer named below.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

6. None directly from this report.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

7. None directly from this report.

RISK ASSESSMENT

8. Low risk.

EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT

9. This report is not subject to an Equality Impact Assessment because there are no changes to service delivery or existing strategies.

CONSULTATION INCLUDING WARD/COUNCILLORS

10. No specific consultation has been undertaken in the preparation of this report.

Lesley King
Head of Policy, Improvement and Engagement.

Name of Contact Officer: Paul Diggins
Post Title: DNS Improvement Manager
Telephone No. 01642 527258
Email Address: paul.diggins@stockton.gov.uk

Education related?

No

Background Papers

None.

Ward(s) and Ward Councillors

Not applicable

Property

None.