

4. TRUSTPOWER COMMUNITY AWARDS

Officer responsible Community Relations Manager	Author Julie Battersby, DDI 941-8780
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The purpose of this report is to seek the Council’s support for the implementation of a new award system for community voluntary groups in the city. The proposal comes from Trustpower and is a partnership opportunity.

CONTEXT

Trustpower has invited the Christchurch City Council to be part of its national “Trustpower Awards” system which presently operates in 19 local authorities across the country. An approach was made to the Mayor and the initial suggestions were declined on the basis that additional awards could add confusion to our own annual Civic and Community Award programme. Further discussions between the Community Relations Manager of Trustpower, the Deputy Mayor and the writer have suggested an opportunity for the promotion of Christchurch volunteer groups could exist through a partnership relationship, by changing the name of the Christchurch City Council “Community Awards” to “Community Board Awards” and holding the Trustpower Awards at different time of the year.

Such a change would require consultation and agreement with the Community Boards.

CURRENT AWARD SCHEME

The Council has an annual Civic and Community Award programme. The Civic Award section of this programme recognises voluntary service of a nature benefiting the City of Christchurch and its people. The qualifying categories include recreation, youth activities, social welfare, educational services, cultural affairs, religious affairs and community affairs, and other voluntary service that contributes to furthering the vision of Christchurch as contained in the Statement of Strategic Objectives as outlined in the Christchurch City Council Annual Plan.

Community Boards also have the opportunity of recognising local residents through the six Community (Board) Service Awards. These are presented to groups or individuals in recognition of significant voluntary service benefiting resident or organisations in the relevant community area. Some Community Boards also have Youth Community Service Award Schemes.

Both of the above award programmes are co-ordinated at a similar time to avoid date and time conflict.

TRUSTPOWER AWARD PROPOSAL

The Trustpower Community Awards recognise and celebrate the significant contribution that voluntary groups or organisations make to the local community. Awards are presented in five categories – Community Sport and Leisure; Community Health and Wellbeing; Education and Child/Youth Development; Arts and Culture; and Heritage and Environment. Projects acknowledged may be ongoing or one-off activities and the entry may come from either the organisation itself, or as a nomination from another agency. Commercially run organisations are excluded but not groups who initiate fund raising strategies which support the delivery of services by volunteers.

The winner in each organisation category receives \$500 and a certificate, and the runner-up in each category receives \$250.00 and a certificate. An overall winner is selected and receives \$1,500, a trophy, which is held for one year and a certificate.

Two representatives from the overall winner organisation from each region, plus the Mayor and Mayoress are then invited to a national presentation, hosted by Trustpower each year. All costs for that weekend are met by Trustpower.

The judging panels in each area are nominated by the Council and include a Trustpower representative.

PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITY

The Trustpower Awards are conducted in partnership with the local authorities where Trustpower has significant market presence and/or is the incumbent energy retailer. The contribution by local government consists of assistance with administration and judging and, where appropriate, the provision of a venue for the award ceremony. Trustpower will meet the costs of awards plus the cost of an annual award function.

In return for its sponsorship, Trustpower requires name association in the awards name, i.e. the Trustpower Christchurch City Community Awards. Trustpower will promote the awards using electricity consumer billing or direct mailout, direct mail to organisations and radio and press advertising.

Nomination forms are always available from Council offices and returned to the Council offices for collation and distribution to the judging panel, once completed.

ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

The cost implications for Christchurch City Council to join in a partnership with Trustpower involve the provision of a meeting room for the judging process and awards evening, and staff time in the collation and distributing of nomination forms. Actual staff time is dependent on the number of nominations. However all nominations are made on a set form, so time commitment should not be large.

To avoid confusion with the existing Civic and Community Awards programme, it would be logical to name a new award programme to set it aside from the existing awards. A suggested name could be the "Trustpower Spirit of Christchurch Awards", or the Trustpower Christchurch City Awards. Several local authorities around New Zealand have selected such branding to set Trustpower Awards aside from their own community awards.

The Committee endorsed a suggestion by Councillor Corbett that the awards programme be run in partnership with Volunteering Canterbury which currently runs a similar programme.

NATURAL + PEOPLE + ECONOMIC STEP ASSESSMENT

#	CONDITION:	Meets condition ✓✓0*	HOW IT HELPS MEET CONDITION:
The Natural Step			
N1	Reduce non-renewable resource use	x	
N2	Eliminate emission of harmful substances	x	
N3	Protect and restore biodiversity and ecosystems	x	
N4	People needs met fairly and efficiently	NA	NA - See People Step + Economic Step
The People Step			
P1	Basic needs met	x	
P2	Full potential developed	✓✓	Encouraging participation at the voluntary level
P3	Social capital enhanced	✓✓	Volunteers recognised and celebrated
P4	Culture and identity protected	✓✓	Community enhanced
P5	Governance and participatory democracy strengthened	✓✓	Judging panel inclusive of community participation
The Economic Step			
E1	Effective and efficient use of all resources	x	
E2	Job rich local economy	x	
E3	Financial sustainability	x	

- Recommendation:**
1. That the Christchurch City Council accept the proposal from Trustpower and partnership a Volunteer Award Programme, involving Volunteering Canterbury.
 2. That the Community Boards be consulted on the proposal to change the name of the Community Awards to "Community Board Awards".
 3. That Volunteering Canterbury be consulted on the above proposal.