
City of Leicester Award

Decision to be taken by: Council

Date of meeting: 23 February 2022

Lead director/officer: Miranda Cannon, Director of
Delivery, Communications and Political Governance

Useful information

- Ward(s) affected: All
- Report author: Miranda Cannon
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- Report version number: 0.1

1. Summary

To consider the introduction of a new civic award recognising persons of distinction who have been significant advocates of the city, and the conferment as the first recipients of this award, to Khun Vichai Srivaddhanaprabha, and Khun Aiyawatt Srivaddhanaprabha.

2. Recommended decision

That the City Council:

- Approve the introduction of a new civic honours known as the 'City of Leicester Award'.
- Confirm the first recipients of this award to be Khun Vichai Srivaddhanaprabha, and Khun Aiyawatt Srivaddhanaprabha in recognition of the commitment they have demonstrated to the city and the significant role they have played as advocates of the city nationally and internationally.

3. Report

3.1 City of Leicester award purpose and criteria

The City of Leicester award aims to provide an opportunity for individuals to be honoured for outstanding achievements which have a positive and wide-reaching impact on the City of Leicester. Recipients of the City of Leicester award should have demonstrated outstanding performance in their given field which has been a source of inspiration to the residents of the city.

This new award is designed to complement the existing civic awards which include the Honoured Citizen Award Scheme which has been in existence for around 20 years and which is aimed at recognising acts of bravery, helping others and improving the community at a more local level. The Honoured Citizen Award doesn't recognise achievements which are perceived to be part of an individual's paid employment and it doesn't recognise significant achievements which impact on the city or citizens of Leicester more widely. The Honorary Freedom of the City award is considered a maximum of once in every administrative term, is governed by the provisions of Section 249 (5) of the Local Government Act 1972 and has certain conditions including a requirement that the nominee where this is an individual, has been on the electoral role for 5 years out of the last 20 years.

The City of Leicester award would differ from Honorary Freedom of the City in so much as it is not governed by legislation and unlike Freedom of the City, can be awarded posthumously as well as to those who are not and may never have been resident in the

city or wider county. It is an award to individuals not organisations, which themselves can be recognised via Freedom of the City.

The City of Leicester award recognises and acknowledges an individual's outstanding performance in their given field which has both inspired the city's residents and has positively impacted on the City of Leicester by delivering clear and demonstrable benefits to the educational, cultural, civic or economic life of the city as a whole and / or who has gained the city wider recognition. Recipients will be considered on the following basis:

- their achievements have resulted in a positive impact on the local community and its residents and / or has delivered a lasting benefit to Leicester;
- their achievements will result in educational, cultural, civic or economic improvement and may be recognised at a wider level throughout the city, county or nationally;
- the nominee does not need to be a resident of the City, but should have a close association to Leicester through their work or significant voluntary contribution;
- the nominee would not be eligible for, or have previously been awarded, Freedom of the City;
- the nominee should not be a serving politician or currently hold a political role within the City; and
- awards can be awarded posthumously, where a recipient's achievements are acknowledged subsequent to their death (up to a period of 5 years).

3.2 City of Leicester award process

The process that is proposed for the City of Leicester Award is as follows:

- Nomination requests will be considered once in each calendar year, usually in June/July and nominations will be held on file until the review takes place;
- All requests should be submitted in writing, together with supporting documentation, and sent to the Member & Civic Support Team;
- Applications will need to include the reason for the nomination together with clear evidence, documentation or testimonials to support this and evidence of the contribution the person has made and their link to the City of Leicester;
- Completed nomination forms will be retained until the time of the annual review, when they will initially be evaluated against the criteria by the Director of Delivery, Communications and Political Governance together with a senior member of the Member & Civic Support Team. A report will be prepared with a recommendation to the City Mayor.
- Where it is clearly evident that an application does not meet the criteria the Director of Delivery, Communications and Political Governance will not prepare a report but will inform the City Mayor of the application and the reason for not proceeding. Unsuccessful nominations may be considered for an Honoured Citizen Award if appropriate.
- The report and supporting documentation are put forward to the City Mayor for consideration and for consultation with elected members. Where appropriate the City Mayor will then make a recommendation to Council seeking their approval of the nomination at the next full council meeting (usually September).
- Nominations receiving a majority vote in favour by the Council will be accepted as successful and the decisions of the Council on all nominations (whether affirmative or negative) are final.
- Once the Council has agreed to proceed, recipients will be invited to an appropriate civic ceremony.

3.3 Khun Vichai Srivaddhanaprabha

In 2010 Leicester City Football Club were taken over by a Thai-led consortium called Asian Football Investments, led by King Power's Khun Vichai Srivaddhanaprabha. Khun Vichai became Chairman of the Club in 2011 and made significant investments in the Club which saw them return to the Premier League in 2013/14 as the Championship title winners. The Club then went on to their historic Premier League title win in 2015/16, despite pre-season odds of 5,000/1.

During his time as Chairman of the club Khun Vichai invested both in the Club and also in the community with over £4million of personal donations to the city including £1million to Leicester University's medical department, £1million to Leicester Royal Infirmary, and £2million towards a new children's hospital.

Sadly, on Saturday 27 October 2018 Khun Vichai Srivaddhanaprabha, was killed in a helicopter accident, alongside four others, outside King Power Stadium. The Foxes Foundation formed in 2011/12 was renamed The Vichai Srivaddhanaprabha Foundation in November 2018 in Khun Vichai's honour and it continues to provide significant support for local charities.

3.4 Khun Aiyawatt Srivaddhanaprabha

Khun Aiyawatt Srivaddhanaprabha replaced his late father, Khun Vichai Srivaddhanaprabha as Chairman of Leicester City Football Club. Khun Aiyawatt has continued his Father's legacy of investing in both the Club and the city, which has included the opening of a new £100m training ground, extensive plans for extension to the King Power Stadium and a renovation of the surrounding area, and the formal acquisition of Leicester City Women's Football Club who have also been enjoying success with their 2021 Women's Championship win and promotion to the FA Women's Super League.

3.5 Conferment of City of Leicester Award

The significant contribution of Khun Vichai Srivaddhanaprabha and Khun Aiyawatt Srivaddhanaprabha to both Leicester City Football Club and to the wider community of Leicester has shown them to be key advocates of the city of Leicester locally, nationally and internationally. They are widely recognised and acknowledged by many Leicester residents for the success and recognition they have brought to the city as well as the commitment they have made personally to the city's communities. They each rightly deserve to be recognised for this through the conferment of the new City of Leicester Award.

4. Financial, legal, equalities, climate emergency and other implications

4.1 Financial implications

There are no financial implications arising from this report.

Martin Judson, Head of Finance, Ext 37 4101

4.2 Legal implications

There are no direct legal implications arising from this proposal. This is a non-statutory gesture of recognition that confers no specific rights or obligations and the Council has the general competence to make it.

Kamal Adatia, City Barrister, Ext 37 1401

4.3 Equalities implications

Under the Equality Act 2010, public authorities (including the local authority and schools), have a Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) which means that, in carrying out their functions, they have a statutory duty to pay due regard to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act, to advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who don't and to foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who don't.

Protected Characteristics under the Equality Act 2010 are age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation.

There are no direct equalities implication arising from the report, but the introduction of City of Leicester Award would be positive to support the work of individuals for the work they have potentially done to foster good relations and advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who don't, as described in the report.

Kalvaran Sandhu, Equalities Manager, Ext 37 6344

4.4 Climate Emergency implications

There are no significant climate emergency implications directly associated with this report.

Aidan Davis, Sustainability Officer, Ext 37 2284

5. Background information and other papers:

None