



BANK OF ENGLAND

News release

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2 October 2000

City Opens Its Heart

At the presentation today of the annual Dragon Awards which recognise the contribution made by businesses and other organisations to the local communities in and around the City, the Governor of the Bank of England, Sir Edward George, praised the standard of the entries and said he was particularly impressed by the growing encouragement by management of staff involvement in community activities.

He went on to describe a major new City charity initiative, "The Heart of the City", which will be aimed at raising the profile of the City's charitable and community involvement more generally.

The Lord Mayor, Alderman Clive Martin, and the Chairman of the FSA, Sir Howard Davies, have agreed to join the Governor in acting as Joint-Presidents for the project which has "the purpose of recognising and encouraging the efforts of those organisations and the members of their staff who are already engaged in these activities and of stimulating similar activities on the part of others who would like to become more actively involved.

" The project will have three elements. First, there will be a broadly-based survey of information on the City's community and charitable involvement. This will show up gaps, raise awareness and provide a wider understanding of what can be and is being done. Secondly, it is intended to organise events that will bring together some of the people already engaged in this sort of involvement to encourage the sharing of experiences and to provide information for those who would like to expand their efforts. Finally, there will be a fund-raising element for those firms who wish to take part in that way.

Heading the "Heart of the City" project will be Andrew Buxton, Director at Barclays Bank, with Pen Kent as Deputy Chairman. The Governor added that Judith Mayhew, others in the City Corporation and a number of senior City financial people had given the project their enthusiastic backing.

As Sir Edward concluded, "An over-arching objective of all three elements of the promotion is to be as all embracing and inclusive as we can... We are not seeking to promote any particular cause or programme but the general objective of greater community and charitable involvement."

Note to Editors

Further details of the "Heart of the City" project are contained in the attached explanatory note.

Key Resources

Heart of the City - Explanatory Note

<http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20100114080129/http://www.bankofengland.co.uk/publications/news/2000/cityheart.pdf>