

Audit, Governance and Standards (Civic Awards) Sub-Committee

Monday 2 August 2021

6.00 pm

Ground Floor Meeting Room G02A - 160 Tooley Street, London SE1 2QH

Membership

Councillor Dora Dixon-Fyle MBE (Chair)
Councillor Tom Flynn
Councillor Andy Simmons
Councillor Graham Neale
Pauline Nandoo
Nicholas Okwulu
Katy Woolley
Anne Wolfe

INFORMATION FOR MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Access to information

You have the right to request to inspect copies of minutes and reports on this agenda as well as the background documents used in the preparation of these reports.

Babysitting/Carers allowances

If you are a resident of the borough and have paid someone to look after your children, an elderly dependant or a dependant with disabilities so that you could attend this meeting, you may claim an allowance from the council. Please collect a claim form at the meeting.

Access

The council is committed to making its meetings accessible. Further details on building access, translation, provision of signers etc for this meeting are on the council's web site: www.southwark.gov.uk or please contact the person below.

Contact

Virginia Wynn-Jones by email: virginia.wynn-jones@southwark.gov.uk

Members of the committee are summoned to attend this meeting

Eleanor Kelly

Chief Executive

Date: 23 July 2021



Audit, Governance and Standards (Civic Awards) Sub-Committee

Monday 2 August 2021

6.00 pm

Ground Floor Meeting Room G02A - 160 Tooley Street, London SE1 2QH

Order of Business

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2.	CONFIRMATION OF VOTING MEMBERS	
3.	NOTIFICATION OF ANY ITEMS OF BUSINESS WHICH THE CHAIR DEEMS URGENT	
4.	DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS	
5.	MINUTES	1 - 3
	To approve as a correct record the minutes of the open section of the meeting held on 10 March 2020.	
6.	CIVIC AWARDS 2021	4 - 8
	ANY OTHER BUSINESS AS NOTIFIED AT THE START OF THE MEETING AND ACCEPTED BY THE CHAIR AS URGENT	

EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

The following motion should be moved, seconded and approved if the sub-committee wishes to exclude the press and public to deal with reports revealing exempt information:

“That the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 1-7, Access to Information Procedure rules of the Constitution.”

7. CLOSED MINUTES**8. CIVIC AWARDS 2021: NOMINATIONS**

Date: 23 July 2021



Audit, Governance and Standards (Civic Awards) Sub-Committee

MINUTES of the OPEN section of the Audit, Governance and Standards (Civic Awards) Sub-Committee held on Tuesday 10 March 2020 at 6.30 pm in the Ground Floor Meeting Room G02c, 160 Tooley Street, London SE1 2QH

PRESENT: Councillor Dora Dixon-Fyle MBE (Chair)
Councillor Humaira Ali
Councillor Tom Flynn
Matthew Allgood (Co-optee)
Sarah Gibb (Co-optee)
Ken Hayes (Co-optee)
Pauline Nandoo (Co-optee)

OFFICER Stephen Douglass (Director of Communities)
SUPPORT: Norman Coombe (Head of the Corporate Legal Team)
Jacqui Brazil (Mayor's PA/Civic Officer)
Gerald Gohler (Constitutional Officer)

1. APOLOGIES

There were apologies for absence from Councillor Andy Simmons.

2. CONFIRMATION OF VOTING MEMBERS

The councillors present were confirmed as voting members.

3. NOTIFICATION OF ANY ITEMS OF BUSINESS WHICH THE CHAIR DEEMS URGENT

In addition to the open agenda papers, the following paper had been circulated:

Closed agenda No.1 - containing the closed report with nominations for the Civic Awards 2020.

4. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS

The following councillors declared an interest in relation to item 8 - Southwark Civic Award 2020 Nominations:

Councillor Humaira Ali, non-pecuniary, as she had nominated one of the nominees.

Councillor Dora Dixon-Fyle MBE, non-pecuniary, as she worked with one of the nominees.

The following co-optees declared an interest in relation to item 8 - Southwark Civic Award 2020 Nominations:

Ken Hayes, non-pecuniary, as he had nominated one of the organisations.

Matthew Allgood, non-pecuniary, as his partner was one of the nominees.

5. MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the open section of the meeting held on 11 March 2019 be agreed as a correct record and signed by the chair.

6. SOUTHWARK CIVIC AWARDS 2020

RESOLVED:

1. That the sub-committee considers the short-listed nominations for civic awards outlined in the closed report and grants awards as appropriate (see paragraph 6 of the report).
2. That the sub-committee considers the nomination from the Mayor (outlined in the closed report) for a discretionary award and grants the award as appropriate.
3. That the public be excluded from the meeting to consider the nominations for Civic Awards 2020 on the grounds that the item involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in category 1 of paragraph 10.8 of the Access to Information procedure rules of the constitution.
4. That the co-opted members be allowed to remain in the closed session.

7. MINUTES

The decision for this item is listed in the closed minutes.

8. SOUTHWARK CIVIC AWARDS 2020 NOMINATIONS

The decision for this item is listed in the closed minutes.

Meeting ended at 7.15 pm

CHAIR:

DATED:

Item No. 6.	Classification: Open	Date: 2 August 2021	Meeting Name: Audit, Governance and Standards (Civic Awards) Sub-Committee
Report title:		Southwark (COVID) Civic Awards 2021	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All	
From:		Strategic Director of Housing and Modernisation	

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the sub-committee considers the short-listed nominations for (COVID) civic awards outlined in the closed report and grant awards as appropriate (see paragraph 6).
2. That the sub-committee notes the nomination from the Mayor (if any, outlined in the closed report) for a discretionary award and grant the award as appropriate.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

3. The Southwark Civic Awards scheme was initiated in 1997 for the purposes of recognising exceptional contributions to community life by individuals and organisations in the borough. Up until 2015, the scheme was administered on behalf of the council by the Southwark Civic Association which made recommendations to Standards Committee for the granting of civic awards.
4. Council assembly on 8 July 2015 resolved that from the 2015-16 civic year, the administration of the civic awards be carried out by the council pending a longer term review of the operation of the awards scheme. In November 2009, council assembly agreed the introduction of a discretionary Mayor's award. The eligibility criteria for this award is outlined in Appendix A. The Awards for 2021 only have been revised and agreed by the Audit, Governance and Standards committee February 2021 to be a COVID Civic Award and are scheduled to be presented at a separate ceremony in the autumn of 2021.
5. The 2021 awards were open for nominations for six weeks. Nominations received are reviewed by officers to ensure nominations meet the awards criteria as specified in Appendix A.
6. Following the short-listing process to ensure nominations fit the criteria, details of all eligible nominees, including a single nomination for the Mayor's Discretionary Award, if any, will be presented to the Audit, Governance and Standards (Civic Awards) Sub-Committee in a closed report, to follow, for consideration by the sub-committee at this meeting.
7. This year's awards ceremony is scheduled to take place at Southwark Cathedral on day Monday 4 October 2021 at 7pm. The ceremony will be combined with the presentation of the Alderpersons titles in a joint civic ceremony that will be followed by a short reception.

KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

8. The granting of awards is a constitutional function of Audit, Governance and Standards (civic awards) sub-committee and members have the final discretion whether or not to grant an award. Members also have a particular responsibility to safeguard the non-political nature of the awards scheme.
9. Members need to be satisfied that the nominations meet the published set of eligibility, expectations, and exclusions before granting awards. These are outlined in Appendix A.
10. Financial and legal checks are undertaken on nominees regarding outstanding debt to the council. Council records are checked to ascertain whether there is any reason not to grant an award (e.g. arrears owed to the council for which no arrangements have been made to repay, or where the council is taking legal action against the nominee). Standards (civic awards) sub-committee is asked to grant awards in principle, subject only then to these checks being undertaken and to delegate authority to the strategic director for housing and modernisation. Such delegation would only allow for an award not to be made on the grounds set out above.

Resource implications

11. Combining Southwark (COVID) Civic Awards, and Presentation of Alderpersons Ceremony in one location and on one date means that all can be managed within existing staff incurring minimal additional financial resources.

Community impact statement

12. The council is committed to promoting civic engagement and good relations in our communities. Application forms are distributed widely throughout the borough and any person is able to submit a nomination online at any time during the call for nominations. The awards attract media interest and recognise the voluntary work of a number of people and organisations within Southwark, thus strengthening community cohesion.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
Southwark Constitution	Constitutional Team 2nd floor, 160 Tooley Street London, SE1 2QH	Virginia Wynn-Jones 020 7525 7055

APPENDICES

No.	Title
Appendix A	Southwark Civic Awards – Rationale, Categories, Criteria and Eligibility

AUDIT TRAIL

Lead Officer	Stephen Douglass, Director of Communities	
Report Author	Jacqueline Brazil, Mayor's PA/Civic Officer	
Version	Final	
Dated	23 July 2021	
Key Decision?	No	
CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / CABINET MEMBER		
Officer Title	Comments Sought	Comments Included
Director of Law and Governance	No	No
Strategic Director of Finance and Governance	No	No
Cabinet Member	No	No
Date final report sent to Constitutional Team		23 July 2021

APPENDIX A

SOUTHWARK (COVID) CIVIC AWARDS 2021

RATIONALE, CATEGORIES, CRITERIA, ELIGIBILITY

Since 1997 the Southwark Civic Awards scheme has honoured hundreds of individuals and organisations across the borough. Apart from the rarely conferred Honorary Freedom of Southwark, the awards are the most prestigious the council can make and in 2016 they become even more exceptional still with the conferring of a small number of awards in these categories: For the year 2021 the awards have been amended to cover the entire borough and will be for the Liberty of the London Borough of Southwark

The Liberty of the Borough of Southwark (Category 1)

The Young Citizen of the Year Award (Category 2)

The Mayor's Discretionary Award (Category 3)

What are we looking for?

With Southwark Civic Award for Courage During the COVID-19 Crisis scheme, the key words are 'active citizenship' and 'exceptional achievement'. We want to hear of individuals, projects, organisations and businesses worthy of being singled out and publicly recognised for their generous use of time, ideas, energy and resources for the betterment of others during the COVID-19 Pandemic.

We are also looking for shining examples of civic mindedness, personal courage, or service to family or community that is above and beyond the ordinary. We want the recipients of these awards to know that the difference they have made to the lives of others, or indeed the life of the borough, is recognised at the highest level. Examples may include, but are not restricted to:

- Outstanding personal service to the community.
- A community organisation or individual that has
- improved the lives of many.
- A project or event that has helped to improve
- cultural links with communities to ensure support
- for everyone during the pandemic.
- An act of personal courage, bravery or generosity.
- Bringing people together to organise support for
- vulnerable residents in Southwark.

The Liberty Awards

The Southwark COVID Civic Awards celebrate our roots as 'London's most historic borough' by conferring the Civic liberty. We want to recognise exceptional contributions to civic, community or family life by individuals, businesses, projects or organisations during the exceptional year of the COVID-19 Pandemic. Those nominated for one of

these awards will have made an exceptional contribution to civic and community life in the previous year (2020).

The Borough of Southwark incorporates: Borough and Bankside, , Chaucer, Faraday, Newington, North Walworth, and St George's wards, London Bridge and West Bermondsey, North Bermondsey, Rotherhithe, South Bermondsey and Surrey Docks wards. Camberwell Green, Champion Hill, Dulwich Hill, Dulwich Village, Dulwich Wood, Goose Green, Nunhead & Queen's Road, Old Kent Road, Peckham, Peckham Rye, Rye Lane and St Giles wards.

The Young Citizen of the Year Award

This award will recognise the exceptional community spirit, generosity or civic mindedness of a youth or young adult under the age of 25 in any part of the borough. As with the 'liberties', you may nominate a young citizen who has contributed several years of service to community or family life, or has made an outstanding contribution in the previous year alone (2020). The recipient of this award must be a Southwark resident.

The Mayor's Discretionary Award

This discretionary award will allow Southwark's current First Citizen, Councillor Sandra Rhule, to exercise her personal judgement as to which individual, business, project or organisation in any part of the borough has made the most outstanding contribution to community life.

This person, business, project or organisation may be one of those already honoured with a Liberty or Young Citizen of the Year Award, or it may be another worthy of being singled out for a lifetime or a year of outstanding achievement.

Eligibility and exclusions

The council welcomes nominations for any individual whose unpaid voluntary activity is unrelated to, or is additional to, the nominee's current employment. We also welcome nominations for any community group, organisation or business which is based in and/or benefits the Southwark community.

Serving elected members of Southwark Council, as agreed by the Audit, Governance and Standards Committee for one year only, may on this specific occasion, be nominated and they may freely nominate others. Employees of Southwark Council are also not excluded from being nominated on this specific year, including for unpaid voluntary activity, which is unrelated to or is additional to their current employment. Council employees may also nominate individuals, projects or organisations.

As the Southwark COVID Civic Awards scheme for 2021 does not supersede any earlier scheme, previous recipients of the scheme may be nominated on this occasion. Those in receipt of equal or greater awards may not be nominated. Those who received a Letter of Commendation in the past may, however, be nominated.

Recipients of awards in other council-operated or supported award schemes such as Housing Heroes 2021 or Southwark Stars 2021 may be nominated for the Southwark COVID Civic Awards.

**AUDIT, GOVERNANCE & STANDARDS (CIVIC AWARDS) SUB-COMMITTEE DISTRIBUTION LIST (OPEN)
MUNICIPAL YEAR 2021-22**

NOTE: Original held by Constitutional Team; all amendments/queries to
Virginia Wynn-Jones Email: virginia.wynn-jones@southwark.gov.uk Tel: 020 7525 7055

Name	No of copies	Name	No of copies
Members of Sub-Committee		Officers	
Councillor Dora Dixon-Fyle	1	Doreen Forrester-Brown	1
Councillor Tom Flynn	1	Norman Coombe	1
Councillor Graham Neale	1	Jacqui Brazil	1
Councillor Andy Simmons	1	Virginia Wynn-Jones	3
Co-opted members			
Pauline Nandoo	By email		
Nicholas Okwulu	By email		
Katy Woolley/Deborah Hayman	By email		
Anne Wolfe/Ken Hayes	By email		
		Total: 10	
		Dated: July 2021	