

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