

Item No. 6.	Classification: Open	Date: 10 March 200	Meeting Name: Standards Committee
Report title:		Civic Awards 2010	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All	
From:		Strategic Director of Communities, Law & Governance	

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1 That members consider the recommendations of the Civic Association for nominations for civic awards and grant awards as appropriate.
- 2 That members consider the nomination from the Mayor for a discretionary award and grant the award as appropriate.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3 The Civic Association was founded in 1996 to promote civic awareness, civic responsibility and civic pride within the borough and currently the main focus of the association is the annual Civic Award Scheme which they administer on behalf of the council. This enables the award scheme to remain and be seen to be non political. Civic awards are formally made by the council. The court of the association makes recommendations to the standards committee, for the granting of civic awards.
- 4 59 nominations were received this year and at the civic court meeting on February 20 2010 recommendations to make 22 awards to individuals and 8 awards to organisations were agreed and are presented for consideration (see the closed report).
- 5 The court of the Civic Association are not required to give specific reasons to standards committee for not recommending a particular award but typical examples are: paid employment, Southwark employee, resident outside the borough and activities not carried out within the borough, have received an award in a previous year, insufficient evidence on the nomination form to grant an award and length of time of voluntary contribution not long enough.
- 6 The award ceremony this year will take place at St Giles Church on Saturday 8 May 2010 at 2.00pm, followed by a reception at the Town Hall, Peckham Road, SE5 8UB

KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

- 7 The granting of awards is a constitutional function of standards committee and members have the final discretion whether or not to grant an award, and the level of award which should be granted. At the standards committee meeting of 3 February 2010 the categories and eligibility criteria for the awards were agreed (see appendix A). Members need to be satisfied that the nominations meet the criteria before granting awards.
- 8 In November 2009, council assembly agreed the introduction of a new discretionary Mayor's award. There is one such nomination from the Mayor (see the closed report). The Mayor's office protocol contains guidance on eligibility and is included in appendix B.
- 9 Financial and legal checks are undertaken on nominees regarding outstanding debt to the council and 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).

- 10 Standards committee is asked to grant awards in principle, subject only then to the checks being undertaken and to delegate authority to the Director of Communities, Law & Governance to make the final decision. Such delegation would only allow for an award not to be made on the grounds set out above.

Resource implications

- 11 The Civic Association is largely self-funding, through subscriptions and donations. The awards are administered, the ceremony organised and the awards provided by the Civic Association. The council supports the awards by distributing application forms, displaying posters and providing administrative support to the selection and awards process. The council also provides support by posting out invitations and providing the catering for the ceremony, which is met from existing budgets.

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 to the Civic Association. 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	On line	Ian Millichap 020 7525 7225
Civic Association constitution	Tooley Street PO Box 64529, London, SE1P 5LX	Gill Allwright 020 7525 7235
Standards Committee reports	On line	Andrew Weir 020 7525 4326

APPENDICES

No.	Title
Appendix A	Southwark Civic Association – Award Categories, Criteria and Eligibility
Appendix B	Southwark Civic Association – The Mayor's Award Criteria

AUDIT TRAIL

Lead Officer	Graham Love, Head of Democratic Services	
Report Author	Graham Love, Head of Democratic Services	
Version	Final	
Dated	1 March 2010	
Key Decision?	No	
Consultation with other officers / directorates / executive member		
Officer Title	Comments Sought	Comments included
Strategic director of communities, law & governance	No	No
Executive member	No	No
Date final report sent to Constitutional Team		1 March 2010