

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

Monday 3 March 2025

6.00 pm

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

### **Membership**

Councillor Barrie Hargrove (Chair)  
Councillor Dora Dixon-Fyle MBE  
Councillor Graham Neale  
Councillor Margy Newens  
Ken Hayes  
Hajia Saidat Oketunde  
Christiana Opoku-Addo  
Brenda Wade

### **Reserves**

Councillor Cassandra Brown  
Jonathan Sedgwick

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### **INFORMATION FOR MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

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#### **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. For details on building access, translation, provision of signers or any other requirements for this meeting, please contact the person below.

**Contact:** Gerald Gohler on 020 7525 7420 or email: [gerald.gohler@southwark.gov.uk](mailto:gerald.gohler@southwark.gov.uk)

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Members of the committee are summoned to attend this meeting

**Althea Loderick**

Chief Executive

Date: 20 February 2025



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

Monday 3 March 2025

6.00 pm

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

### **Order of Business**

<b>Item No.</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Page No.</b>
<b>1. APOLOGIES</b>		
	To receive any apologies for absence.	
<b>2. CONFIRMATION OF VOTING MEMBERS</b>		
	A representative of each political group will confirm the voting members of the committee.	
<b>3. NOTIFICATION OF ANY ITEMS OF BUSINESS WHICH THE CHAIR DEEMS URGENT</b>		
	In special circumstances, an item of business may be added to an agenda within five clear days of the meeting.	
<b>4. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS</b>		
	Members to declare any personal interests and dispensations in respect of any item of business to be considered at this meeting.	
<b>5. MINUTES</b>		1 - 3
	To approve as a correct record the minutes of the open section of the meeting held on 4 March 2024.	
<b>6. CIVIC AWARDS 2025</b>		4 - 10
	To consider the short-listed nominations for the Civic Awards and the nomination from the Mayor outlined in the closed report and grant awards as appropriate.	

**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**

In the closed agenda pack.

**8. CIVIC AWARDS 2025: NOMINATIONS**

In the closed agenda pack.

Date: 20 February 2025



## **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 Monday 4 March 2024 at 6.00 pm at Ground Floor Meeting Rooms G02A and G02B - 160 Tooley Street, London SE1 2QH

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**PRESENT:** Councillor Barrie Hargrove (Chair)  
Councillor John Batteson  
Councillor Dora Dixon-Fyle MBE  
Councillor Graham Neale  
Grace Fadoju  
Ken Hayes  
Pauline Nandoo  
David Reid

**OFFICER** Jacqui Brazil (Civic Officer)  
**SUPPORT:** Gerald Gohler (Constitutional Officer)

### **1. APOLOGIES**

There were none.

### **2. CONFIRMATION OF VOTING MEMBERS**

The councillors listed as present above indicated that they were voting members.

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

The chair informed the meeting that in addition to the open agenda papers, the closed agenda pack comprising the closed report containing nominations for the civic awards 2024 and the draft closed minutes of the meeting held on 7 March 2023 had been circulated.

#### 4. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS

The following members and co-optees declared interests related to item:

##### 8. Civic Awards 2024: Nominations

Councillor Graham Neale, personal and non-prejudicial, as he knew one of the nominees personally, but would approach all nominations with an open mind.

Pauline Nandoo, personal and prejudicial, as she had a personal interest in one of the nominees for the Southwark Stands Together awards and would, therefore, not be taking part in the discussions on the Southwark Stands Together awards.

#### 5. MINUTES

##### RESOLVED:

That the open minutes of the meeting held on 7 March 2023 be agreed as a correct record of the meeting, and be signed by the chair.

#### 6. CIVIC AWARDS 2024

Jacqui Brazil introduced the report and responded to questions put by members of the sub-committee.

The sub-committee discussed additions to the rules governing nominations for civic awards going forward.

##### RESOLVED:

1. That the rules governing the nominations for civic awards be amended for future nomination processes to include the following:
  - a. That posthumous nominations be permitted provided that the nominee has passed away in the 12 months before the date of the sub-committee meeting making the decision on the civic awards, and that the work or project they are nominated for also took place in the last 12 months.
  - b. That, going forward, once an organisation has received a civic award, no employee or volunteer from this organisation will be considered for an individual civic award while they are associated with that organisation.
2. That the public be excluded from the meeting to consider the nominations for Civic Awards 2024 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.

3. That the co-opted members be allowed to remain in the closed session.

As resolved above the meeting went into closed session at 6.22pm.

## **7. CLOSED MINUTES**

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

## **8. CIVIC AWARDS 2024: NOMINATIONS**

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

The meeting ended at 8.05 pm.

**CHAIR:**

**DATED:**

<b>Meeting Name:</b>	Audit, Governance and Standards (Civic Awards) Sub-Committee
<b>Date:</b>	3 March 2025
<b>Report title:</b>	Southwark Civic Awards 2025
<b>Ward(s) or groups affected:</b>	All
<b>Classification:</b>	Open
<b>Reason for lateness (if applicable):</b>	Not Applicable
<b>From:</b>	Assistant Chief Executive – Governance and Assurance

## RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the sub-committee considers the short-listed nominations for the Civic Awards outlined in the closed report and grants 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 grants 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.
5. The awards were open for nominations between 2 December 2024 and 31 January 2025 (9 weeks). Nominations received are reviewed by officers to ensure nominations meet the award 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 Saturday 17 May 2025 at 11am. The ceremony may be combined with the presentation of the Freedom of the Borough titles in a joint civic ceremony that will be followed by a short reception.
8. The Civic Awards have evolved over time and now include:
  - The Liberty of the Old Metropolitan Borough of Bermondsey
  - The Liberty of the Old Metropolitan Borough of Camberwell
  - The Liberty of the Old Metropolitan Borough of Southwark
  - The Young Citizen of the Year Award
  - Southwark Together Award
  - The Climate Champion Award
  - The Mayor's Discretionary Award

## **KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION**

9. 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.
10. 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.
11. 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). Audit, governance and 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 assistant chief executive – governance and assurance. Such delegation would only allow for an award not to be made on the grounds set out above.

## **Community, equalities (including socio-economic) and health impacts**

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 eligible person is able to submit a nomination either by post or online at any time during the call for nominations. The awards attract media interest and recognise the voluntary and other community work of a number of people and organisations within Southwark, thus strengthening community cohesion.



### **Climate change implications**

13. Combining Southwark Civic Awards, and Presentation of Freedoms Ceremony in one location and on one date will save resources and so lessen the environmental and climate change impact.

### **Resource implications**

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

### **Legal implications**

15. The awards process is not considered to have any legal implications.

### **Financial implications**

16. All cost will be met from existing budgets.

### **BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

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

### **APPENDICES**

<b>No.</b>	<b>Title</b>
Appendix A	Southwark Civic Awards – Rationale, Categories, Criteria and Eligibility

**AUDIT TRAIL**

Lead Officer	Chidilim Agada, Head of Constitutional Services		
Report Author	Jacqueline Brazil, Mayor's EA/Civic Officer		
Version	Final		
Dated	17 February 2025		
Key Decision?	No		
CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / CABINET MEMBER			
Officer Title		Comments Sought	Comments Included
Assistant Chief Executive – Governance and Assurance		No	No
Strategic Director, Resources		No	No
Cabinet Member		No	No
Date final report sent to Constitutional Team			18 February 2025

## APPENDIX A

### SOUTHWARK CIVIC AWARDS

#### 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 became even more exceptional still with the conferring of a small number of awards in these categories:

**The Liberty of the Old Metropolitan Borough of Bermondsey (Category 1)**

**The Liberty of the Old Metropolitan Borough of Camberwell (Category 2)**

**The Liberty of the Old Metropolitan Borough of Southwark (Category 3)**

**The Young Citizen of the Year Award (Category 4)**

**The Southwark Together Award (Category 5)**

**The Climate Champion Award (Category 6)**

**The Mayor's Discretionary Award (Category 7)**

#### **What are we looking for?**

With this awards scheme the key words are 'active citizenship' and 'exceptional achievement'. We are in search of people, 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.

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 young or the elderly.
- A community organisation or person that has improved the lives of many.
- A project or event that has helped to build bridges between cultures and communities.
- An act of personal courage or generosity.
- Innovation in business or the improvement of the local economy.
- Enhancement of the borough's culture, heritage and reputation.

## **The Liberty Awards**

The Southwark Civic Awards celebrate our roots as 'London's most historic borough' by conferring the liberties of the three metropolitan boroughs from which The London Borough of Southwark was formed in 1965 – Bermondsey, Camberwell, and Southwark. We also want to recognise exceptional contributions to civic, community or family life by individuals, businesses, projects or organisations in the geographical areas they once covered. Those nominated for one of these awards may have given a lifetime or many years of service, or made an exceptional contribution to civic and community life in the previous year (2021).

**The Old Metropolitan Borough of Bermondsey** incorporates: London Bridge and West Bermondsey, North Bermondsey, Rotherhithe, South Bermondsey and Surrey Docks wards.

**The Old Metropolitan Borough of Camberwell** incorporates: 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 Old Metropolitan Borough of Southwark** incorporates: Borough and Bankside, Chaucer, Faraday, Newington, North Walworth, and St George's 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 (2024). The recipient of this award must be a Southwark resident.

## **The Southwark Together Award**

This new Civic Award has been introduced to celebrate those who work over and above the call of duty to promote equality, diversity and inclusion, enable good community relations, tolerance and understanding. This award will recognise an individual, community group or organisation that has made an outstanding contribution to enabling Southwark to be a more integrated, tolerant, welcoming, safe and inclusive borough, which values its rich diversity. Building on the work of Southwark Stands Together, the award celebrates great practice to promote equality, inclusion and good community relations.

Nominations can be made for individuals' voluntary activity or community group, organisation or business which is based in and/or benefits the Southwark community.

## **The Southwark Climate Champion Award**

The Climate Champion Award recognises the commitment and contribution to tackling climate change and reducing carbon emissions in the borough. We already see fantastic work going on throughout the borough from individuals to organisations and businesses. This award is a way to recognise outstanding work in this area and those who are champions in the fight against climate change.

We are looking for nominees who are having an impact in the borough and working to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. We particularly welcome applications from nominees who are taking action, which also promotes social justice.

## **The Mayor's Discretionary Award**

This discretionary award will allow Southwark's current First Citizen, Councillor Naima Ali, 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 may not be nominated but they may freely nominate others. Employees of Southwark Council are also excluded from being nominated, unless it is 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 Civic Awards scheme for 2024/2025 does not supersede any earlier scheme, previous recipients of equal or greater awards in the scheme 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 or Southwark Stars may be nominated for the Southwark Civic Awards.

**NOTE:** Original held by Constitutional Team; all amendments/queries to Gerald Gohler Email: [gerald.gohler@southwark.gov.uk](mailto:gerald.gohler@southwark.gov.uk) Tel: MS Teams or 020 7525 7420

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