

Council Assembly

Extraordinary meeting

Wednesday 19 March 2025
9.00 pm (or at the rise of ordinary council assembly)
Council Offices, 160 Tooley Street, London SE1 2QH

Councillors are summoned to attend a meeting of the Council to consider the business contained herein

Althea Loderick
Chief Executive

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, Andrew Weir on 020 7525 7055 or 020 7525 7222 or email: virginia.wynn-jones@southwark.gov.uk; andrew.weir@southwark.gov.uk; constitutional.team@southwark.gov.uk

Date: 7 March 2025



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Order of Business

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PART A - OPEN BUSINESS

1. PRELIMINARY BUSINESS

1.1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

To receive any apologies for absence.

1.2. ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE MAYOR, MEMBERS OF THE CABINET OR CHIEF EXECUTIVE

To receive any announcements from the Mayor, members of the cabinet or the chief executive.

1.3. NOTIFICATION OF ANY ITEMS OF BUSINESS WHICH THE MAYOR DEEMS URGENT

In special circumstances an item of business may be added to an agenda within seven working days of the meeting.

1.4. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS

Members to declare any interests and dispensations in respect of any item of business to be considered at this meeting.

2. OTHER REPORTS

2.1. FREEDOMS OF THE BOROUGH 2025

1 - 4

ANY OPEN ITEMS IDENTIFIED AS URGENT AT THE START OF THE MEETING

EXCLUSION MOTION (IF NECESSARY)

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

“That under the access to information procedure rules of the Southwark constitution, 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 section(s) 1 – 7 of paragraph 10.4 of the procedure rules.”

PART B – CLOSED BUSINESS**ANY CLOSED ITEMS IDENTIFIED AS URGENT AT THE START OF THE MEETING****2.2. FREEDOMS OF THE BOROUGH 2025**

Date: 7 March 2025

Meeting Name:	Council Assembly
Date:	19 March 2025
Report title:	Freedoms of the Borough nominations 2025
Ward(s) or groups affected:	All
Classification:	Open
Reason for lateness (if applicable):	Not applicable
From:	Constitutional Steering Panel

RECOMMENDATION

1. That council assembly considers and agrees the nominations for the award of Freedom of the Borough as set out in the closed report.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2. The council has power under Section 249 (5) of the Local Government Act 1972 to confer the title of “Freeman of the Borough” on persons who have, in the opinion of the council, rendered eminent services to the borough. For the purposes of the Act ‘person’ includes organisations. The constitution (3A.21) provides for council assembly to confer the title of Freedom of the Borough.
3. The council must agree such conferment by resolution passed by not less than two thirds of the members present at a meeting specially convened for that purpose with notice of the purpose being set out in the summons for the meeting.
4. The council has power under Section 249(6) to spend a reasonable sum as thought fit for the purpose of presenting an address or a casket containing an address to such Honorary Freeman (including those conferred on organisations).
5. The Honorary Freedom of the Borough is the highest award the council can bestow. The council has always considered nominations based on individual merit.
6. Council Assembly agreed on 30 October 2002 the following criteria for conferment of the Freedom of the Borough.
 - That nominations may be received from councillors, officers, MPs, outside organisations and members of the public who are on the council’s Electoral Register.

- That nominations be limited to one per person/organisation and that they must show by example that the nominee is a “person of distinction who has rendered eminent services to the borough”.
 - That there be no restriction as to how often this award may be conferred.
7. Nominations are initially considered by the Constitutional Steering Panel which then makes recommendations to a specially convened meeting of the Council Assembly.
 8. If Council Assembly agrees to confer the honour, then a ceremony for presentation of the Honorary Freedom of the Borough is arranged. As previously agreed, this ceremony will take place to coincide with Annual Meeting of the Council (incorporating Mayor Making) and the presentation of the Southwark Civic Awards at Southwark Cathedral on Saturday 17 May 2025.
 9. A framed ornate scroll of honour is presented to honorands. Individuals (but not organisations) are also entitled to wear a Free Citizen’s ceremonial robe at civic ceremonial events.
 10. The office of Honorary Freedom of the Borough does not convey with it any legal rights or responsibilities other than a ceremonial role at civic functions. Conditions apply to an award conferred on an organisation (see Appendix A).
 11. Nominations for the Freedom of the Borough listed below have been received, and any additional late nominations will be circulated. All nominations received need to be considered by this meeting of the Constitutional Steering Panel.

KEY FACTORS FOR CONSIDERATION

12. Three nominations for the Freedom of the Borough listed have been received and are recommended to the Constitutional Steering Panel. These are listed in the closed report.

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

Community impact statement

13. This report is not considered to contain any proposals that would have a significant impact on any particular community or group. The Freedoms of the Borough are intended to be a demonstration of the council's respect for persons of distinction who have rendered eminent services to the borough.

Equalities (including socio-economic) impact statement

14. This report is not considered to contain any proposals that would have a significant equalities impact.

Health impact statement

15. This report is not considered to contain any proposals that would have a significant health impact.

Climate change implications

16. This report is not considered to contain any proposals that would have a significant impact on climate change.

Resource implications

17. Occasional Honorary Freedom of the Borough ceremonies can be managed within existing staff and financial resources. Combining the presentation ceremony with Annual Council, Mayor Making, and the Southwark Civic Awards will greatly reduce the costs that would otherwise be incurred as heretofore the Freedom of the Borough has been a specially organised event.
18. The cost of the framed ornate scroll which each honorand will receive is currently in the region of £200. The purchase of a ceremonial robe will not be required as these are only worn by individual honorands and the council already has an adequate supply.
19. Additional costs may be incurred should there be a civic reception following the presentation ceremony, to which honorands and their guests are invited. In recent years these receptions have significantly reduced in cost due to the serving of a more modest selection of food and drinks.

Legal implications

20. Legal issues are outlined in the body of the report.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
Southwark Constitution http://www.southwark.gov.uk/info/10058/about_southwark_council/375/councils_constitution	Council Offices, 160 Tooley Street, London SE1 2QH	Constitutional Team Email: constitutional.team@southwark.gov.uk Tel: 020 7525 7055

APPENDICES

Appendix	Title
Appendix 1	The Office of Honorary Freedom of the Borough - Conditions applying to an award conferred on an organisation

AUDIT TRAIL

Lead Officer	Doreen Forester-Brown, Assistant Chief Executive, Governance and Assurance		
Report Author	Jacqueline Brazil, Civic Officer, Virginia Wynn-Jones, Constitutional Team		
Version	Final		
Dated	6 March 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		Yes	Yes
Date final report sent to Constitutional Team			6 March 2025

NOTE: Original held by Constitutional Team; all amendments/queries to Virginia Wynn-Jones Tel: 020 7525 7055

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