

Item No. 6.1	Classification: Open	Date: 24 November 2021	Meeting Name: Council Assembly
Report title:		New Civic Award - Diversity	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All wards	
From:		Constitutional Steering Panel	

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That further to a motion agreed by council assembly in July 2019, council assembly agree to create an additional new Civic Award, which specifically and additionally recognises and values the importance of enabling Southwark to be a welcoming, inclusive, fair, tolerant, cohesive and integrated borough, which values and celebrates the rich diversity of the borough and promotes good community relations, so that all feel welcome, safe and included. One award is to be made each year based on the criteria set out in paragraphs 11-14 below.
2. To agree that Southwark Together be the name of the new Civic Award.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

3. Council Assembly at its meeting on 17 July 2019 agreed a motion on “Promoting Equality and Valuing Diversity” and agreed:

‘to create a specific award for those who have made an outstanding contribution to making Southwark a more integrated, plural and tolerant place for us all, as part of the borough’s Civic Awards’.
4. Since 1997 the London Borough of Southwark has presented civic awards annually to people who live or work in Southwark who have demonstrated exceptional community spirit. Awards are made by the audit, governance and standards (civic awards) sub-committee, after nomination by any member of the public.
5. In addition to the rarely conferred Freedom of the Borough, conventionally the Civic Awards have included:
 - 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
 - The Mayor’s Discretionary Award
6. In February 2021, the audit, governance and standards committee noted that it would consider the criteria for the new award.

KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

Policy framework implications

7. Council Assembly wishes to see Southwark as 'a leader and serve as a beacon to others in demonstrating how to create the tolerant, open and mutually supportive society we want to see'. The new civic award will contribute to this aspiration by celebrating 'those who have made an outstanding contribution to making Southwark a more integrated, plural and tolerant place for us all'.
8. While equality, diversity and inclusion values and principles can be found throughout the criteria for the Civic Awards, it is important to specifically recognise an outstanding contribution to the promotion of good community relations, which helps to enable Southwark to be a welcoming, inclusive, integrated, safe borough, which values its rich diversity. It will also help to promote the continuing good work of the Southwark Stands Together aims and pledges.
9. The new award is consistent with the two additional values in the Council's Fairer Future For All commitments and Borough Plan:
 - to always work to make Southwark more equal and just;
 - to stand against all forms of discrimination and racism.

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

Community impact statement

10. The new award will contribute to recognition of outstanding work enabling communities or individuals to come together, understand, value and support each other in what all have in common as well as recognising strength in valuing and celebrating the great diversity of the borough. This can include many of the following:
 - Age – young people; older people
 - Women
 - Men
 - Different gender identities
 - LGBT groups and individuals
 - Faith groups
 - All groups from different racial and ethnic backgrounds
 - Disabled people
 - Diverse socio-economic backgrounds
 - Carers.
11. The proposed criteria for the new Civic Award should include the following:
 - to always work to make Southwark more equal and just;
 - to stand against all forms of discrimination and racism

- to promote good community relations, tolerance, understanding and mutual respect
- to celebrate and value the rich diversity of the borough
- to promote community cohesion and integration, so that all feel valued, included and have a sense of belonging
- to promote safe, included and cohesive communities
- to tackle barriers to equal access and address disadvantage
- to promote equality and inclusion in the borough
- to tackle prejudice and promote understanding of the borough's rich diversity.

12. Success for an award will be demonstrated by:

- identifiable qualitative and quantitative impact on bringing together members of diverse communities, promoting community/social cohesion and challenging injustice and discrimination in the borough.
- outstanding work in the area, as opposed to scale, size etc. However, scale or size could also be a factor in impact of the area of work/event/project etc.
- significant impact on the promotion of good community relations and valuing diversity; understanding diversity; promoting understanding and mutual respect of diversity; promotion of inclusion and sense of belonging; tackling prejudice and discrimination; promoting cohesive communities; promotion of social integration; promotion of an equal, fair and just Southwark; addressing disadvantage and multiple disadvantage etc.

13. Eligibility for the new award will be in line with the other civic awards i.e. the council accepts nominations for any individual whose unpaid voluntary activity is unrelated or additional to the nominee's current employment, or from any community group, organisation or business which is based in and/or benefits the Southwark community.

14. Elected members or council employees cannot be nominated (other than for other work) but can nominate others.

Equalities (including socio-economic) impact statement

15. The new Civic Award is consistent with the Council's Equality, Diversity and Inclusion commitments in the Southwark Equality Framework, which also includes the Council's work on Southwark Stands Together. It will contribute to the Council implementing commitments on the Public Sector Equality duty, which include promoting equality, diversity and inclusion and specifically the promotion of good community relations, tackling prejudice, promoting tolerance and understanding.

16. As this theme cuts across all the Civic Awards, the criteria should make clear that any nomination for any of the other awards can be automatically considered for this new award - if the proposer so wishes.

Health impact statement

17. None in the context of this report

Climate change implications

18. None in the context of this report.

Resource Implications

19. None in the context of this report.

Consultation

20. The name and criteria for the new award have been discussed by the Equalities and Inclusion Lead Officer and the Civic Office (Mayor and Deputy Mayor).

SUPPLEMENTARY ADVICE FROM OTHER OFFICERS

Director of Law and Governance

21. None in the context of this report.

Strategic Director of Finance and Governance

22. None in the context of this report.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
July 2019 Council Assembly decision:	https://moderngov.southwark.gov.uk/documents/g6375/Printed%20minutes%20Wednesday%202017-Jul-2019%2019.00%20Council%20Assembly.pdf?T=1	Constitutional Team Email: constitutional.team@southwark.gov.uk
February 2021 Audit, governance and standards committee	https://moderngov.southwark.gov.uk/documents/g6715/Printed%20minutes%20Monday%2008-Feb-2021%2018.30%20Audit%20Governance%20and%20Standards%20Committee.pdf?T=1	Constitutional Team Email: constitutional.team@southwark.gov.uk

APPENDICES

No.	Title
None	

AUDIT TRAIL

Lead Officer	Stephen Douglass, Director of Communities	
Report Author	Martin Kovats, Community Projects Manager	
Version	Final	
Dated	11 November 2021	
Key Decision?	No	
CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / CABINET MEMBER		
Officer Title	Comments Sought	Comments Included
Director of Law and Governance	Yes	No
Strategic Director of Finance and Governance	No	N/A
Cabinet Member	Yes	N/A
Date final report sent to Constitutional Team		11 November 2021