

Item No. 8.	Classification: Open	Date: 22 November 2022	Committee: Audit Governance and Standards Committee
Report title:		Selection criteria for independent members of the audit, governance and standards (civic awards) sub-committee	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All wards	
From:		Martin Kovats, Community Projects Manager	

RECOMMENDATION

1. That the committee agrees the criteria set out below for inviting individuals to join the audit, governance and standards (civic awards) sub-committee ('the civic awards sub-committee') for evaluating nominations for the 2023 Civic Awards.
2. That the committee consider any recommendations they would have for individuals or groups to be invited to join the civic awards sub-committee.

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. Originally, the scheme was administered on behalf of the council by the Southwark Civic Association which made recommendations to the Standards Committee for the granting of Civic Awards. In 2015 council assembly resolved that the administration of the civic awards be carried out by the council itself.
4. 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
 - The Mayor's Discretionary Award
 - Southwark Together Award(s)
5. In March each year the civic awards sub-committee is convened to review nominations for awards and decide the recipients for the year. In order to demonstrate transparency and to include a wider range of views, up to four individuals from outside of the council are invited to join the sub-committee.

There are currently no formal criteria for selecting these 'lay' individuals other than the expectation that there is a gender balance.

KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

6. 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'. These values should be reflected in how independent members of the civic awards sub-committee are chosen.
7. As the role entails a one-off voluntary commitment, it is not appropriate to open up membership to a formal, public competition. Instead, independent members can be invited to join with invitations based on the following criteria.
8. Invitees should:
 - Have a good understanding of the borough and its diverse communities
 - Be familiar with the borough's Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS)
 - Be able to understand and evaluate nominations for Civic Awards
 - Not be a nominee or represent an organisation that is nominated.
9. As a group, the independent members should:
 - Have a gender balance
 - Reflect the cultural and ethnic diversity of the borough
 - Include at least one person under 25.
10. Communities Division considers that these are appropriate criteria and will be actively engaging with the VCS and others within Southwark to find people interested, and would welcome the audit, governance and standards committee's comments on the criteria and recommendations for people to contact.
11. The committee will be provided with a list of at least six individuals by the end of January 2023 so selection can be made in time for the civic awards sub-committee meeting in March 2023.

Policy implications

12. This report is not considered to have direct policy implications.

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

Community impact statement

13. The paper proposes the establishment of relevant criteria for the selection of individuals with demonstrable knowledge and experience of the borough's diverse communities and vibrant voluntary and community sector to contribute to the recognition and celebration of those who have made a significant contribution to the people of Southwark. This report is not

considered to contain any proposals that would have an adverse impact on any particular community or group.

Equalities (including socio-economic) impact statement

14. This report ensures that the individuals invited to take part in the AGS (Civic Awards) sub-committee are more broadly representative of the borough's population in terms of gender, ethnicity and age. The proposal does not exclude anyone possessing any particular protected characteristic and is not considered to contain any proposals that would have an adverse 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. If there are direct resource implications in this report, such as the payment of fees, these will be met from existing budget provision.

Consultation

18. There has been no consultation on this report.

SUPPLEMENTARY ADVICE FROM OTHER OFFICERS

19. None required.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
None		

APPENDICES

No.	Title
None	

AUDIT TRAIL

Lead Officer	Jess Leech, Community Engagement Manager	
Report Author	Martin Kovats, Community Projects Manager	
Version	Final	
Dated	11 October 2022	
Key Decision?	No	
CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / CABINET MEMBER		
Officer Title	Comments sought	Comments included
Director of Law and Governance	No	N/A
Strategic Director of Finance and Governance	No	N/A
Cabinet Member	No	No
Date final report sent to Constitutional Team		11 October 2022