

Item No. 6.	Classification: Open	Date: 7 March 2023	Meeting Name: Audit, Governance and Standards (Civic Awards) Sub-Committee
Report title:		Southwark Civic Awards 2023	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All	
From:		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 grant 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 grant 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 2023 awards were open for nominations for 10 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 20 May 2023 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.

KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

8. 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.
9. 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.
10. 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). 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

11. 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

12. 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

13. 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

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

Financial implications

15. All cost will be met from existing budgets.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

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

APPENDICES

No.	Title
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 PA/Civic Officer	
Version	Final	
Dated	23 February 2023	
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 of Finance and Governance	No	No
Cabinet Member	No	No
Date final report sent to Constitutional Team	23 February 2023	