

Item No. 7.	Classification: Open	Date: 6 September 2023	Decision Maker: Audit, Governance and Standards Committee
Report title:		New Civic Award – Climate Champion Award	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All wards	
From:		Climate Change and Sustainability Director	

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the Audit, Governance and Standards Committee note the recommendations from Council Assembly in July 2023 to establish a Climate Champion Award as part of the Civic Awards.
2. That the Audit, Governance and Standards Committee review and agree the nomination and award criteria set out in this report for a Climate Champion Award.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

3. Southwark Council declared a climate emergency in 2019 and we are committed to doing everything we can to reach net zero by 2030. To deliver on this ambition, we need to collaborate with organisations, institutions and residents across the borough.
4. Since 1997 Southwark presents civic awards annually to people who live or work in Southwark and 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. Council Assembly agreed to introduce a specific climate award alongside the other civic awards so that the council can give recognition to innovative and pioneering climate work within our borough.
6. Southwark will only achieve the ambition of a sustainable net zero future with everyone playing their part. This award is part of our approach to building recognition of work that is going on in the community and highlighting what can be done to reduce carbon and tackle climate change. The award will raise the profile of the climate emergency in Southwark and celebrate some of the forward-thinking climate work that is already taking place in our borough.
7. When establishing the award, Council Assembly agreed to ask the Audit, Governance and Standards Committee to consider the award criteria in more detail before it is launched later in the year. This report outlines the criteria for the award and the committee is asked to consider and agree this.

KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

8. The report sets out officers' proposed criteria for the award. 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.
9. The purpose of this award is to showcase climate work that goes above and beyond in addressing and raising awareness about the climate emergency. This work should inspire others to take action and have a meaningful impact on the lives of residents.
10. Members of the public will be able to put forward nominations for a Southwark Climate Champion via the website, where they will be able to provide details of the name of person or organisation, project or business being nominated. The Sub-Committee will receive advice from the Climate Change and Sustainability Director on nominations, and will determine which individual or organisation should receive the award.

AWARD CRITERIA

11. The new Climate Champion Award will be open to an individual, group or organisation which has championed tackling the climate emergency in Southwark and/or contributed to a more sustainable future.
12. In conferring an award, the committee should consider the degree to which nominees have demonstrated that their climate work:
 - Enables direct carbon savings, such as through designing and installing sustainable infrastructure, or through work that enables carbon reduction such as through education, engagement, campaigning or developing green skills.
 - Has had an impact in Southwark.
 - Has had a significant impact on the borough in the 12 months prior to nomination.
13. In addition strong applications are likely to demonstrate that:
 - The nominee is taking a social justice approach to their work, particularly in working with low-income and minority groups in the borough who are likely to be most impacted by climate change.
 - Southwark residents were involved in the co-design of the nominee's climate work.

- The nominee is delivering co-benefits through their climate work, for example, including but not limited to: alleviating fuel poverty, improving air quality, improving health through active travel or employing residents into green jobs.
14. Nominees may also want to show how they deliver against one of the key themes within Southwark's climate strategy and action plan, which are as follows:
- Greener buildings
 - Active and sustainable travel
 - Renewable energy
 - Thriving natural environment
 - A circular economy with green jobs
 - Resilience and Adaptation (due to be added later this year)

Policy framework implications

15. The new award is consistent with the council's declaration of a climate emergency made in March 2019, and the council's strategy and action plan agreed in 2021. The strategy and action plan highlights that climate change will only be tackled with everyone playing their part and highlights the need to engage the community and innovate to find solutions.

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

16. The introduction of the Southwark Climate Champion Award will have a positive impact on the community and equalities as it will focus on local initiatives that focus on tackling climate change and the associated benefits to the community. The award criteria outlined in this report would also allow the Climate Champion Award to have a focus on social justice, recognising that some of the communities most vulnerable to climate change are those who have the least resource to deal with it. The award criteria also encourages community co-design in nominees' applications.

17. There is no health impact associated with this report

Climate change implications

18. This award will promote action to tackle climate change. It is aligned with our climate strategy which commits the council to engaging with residents and to promote work which tackles climate change.

Resource implications

19. No additional budget is required for the Southwark Climate Champion Award to become part of the Civic Awards.
20. The award would be managed within existing resources.

SUPPLEMENTARY ADVICE FROM OTHER OFFICERS

Assistant Chief Executive Governance & Assurance

21. None

Strategic Director of Finance

22. None

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
New Civic Award – Climate Champion Award https://moderngov.southwark.gov.uk/documents/s115243/Report%20Climate%20Award.pdf	Constitutional Team	constitutional@southwark.gov.uk

AUDIT TRAIL

Lead Officer	Chris Page, Climate Change Director	
Report Author	Vanessa Parry-O'Driscoll, Climate Change Project Officer	
Version	3	
Dated	09 August 2023	
Key Decision?	No	
CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / CABINET MEMBER		
Officer Title	Comments Sought	Comments Included
Assistant Chief Executive Governance and Assurance	Yes	No
Strategic Director of Finance	Yes	No
List other officers here		
Cabinet Member	Yes	No
Date final report sent to Constitutional Team / Scrutiny Team	17 August 2023	