

<b>Item No.</b> 14.	<b>Classification:</b> Open	<b>Date:</b> 15 November 2023	<b>Committee:</b> Audit Governance and Standards Committee
<b>Report title:</b>		Independent members of the audit, governance and standards (civic awards) sub-committee: Recommendations	
<b>Ward(s) or groups affected:</b>		All wards	
<b>From:</b>		Virginia Wynn-Jones, Constitutional Team	

## RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the committee notes 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 Climate Champion 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.

The formal criteria for selecting these 'lay' individuals was agreed in 2022 and are set out below.

## **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. Officers 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 sets out 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 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**

<b>Background Papers</b>	<b>Held At</b>	<b>Contact</b>
None		

## AUDIT TRAIL

<b>Lead Officer</b>	Doreen Forrester-Brown, Assistant chief executive, governance and assurance	
<b>Report Author</b>	Virginia Wynn-Jones, principal constitutional officer	
<b>Version</b>	Final	
<b>Dated</b>	7 November 2023	
<b>Key Decision?</b>	No	
<b>CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / CABINET MEMBER</b>		
<b>Officer Title</b>	<b>Comments sought</b>	<b>Comments included</b>
Assistant chief executive, governance and assurance	No	N/A
Strategic Director of Finance	No	N/A
Cabinet Member	No	No
<b>Date final report sent to Constitutional Team</b>		7 November 2023