

Item No. 20.	Classification: Open	Date: 5 February 2024	Meeting Name: Audit, Governance and Standards Committee
Report title:		Appointment of non-voting co-opted members of the civic awards sub-committee for 2023-24	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All	
From:		Community Projects Manager	

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the committee considers the nominations for the positions of co-opted members of the audit, governance and standards (civic awards) sub-committee outlined in closed Appendix 1 and agree to select three of the nominations plus the position held for the Civic Society.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2. 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.
3. Council assembly on 8 July 2015 resolved that from the 2015/2016 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. Officers were requested to put in place the necessary arrangements for the running of the awards within existing council resources. Council assembly in 2016 also resolved that the decisions on the granting of civic awards be delegated to a sub-committee of the audit, governance and standards committee.
4. The audit, governance and standards committee agreed at its meeting of 14 July 2016 that the membership of the audit, governance and standards (civic awards) sub-committee (henceforth "civic awards sub-committee") must include four co-opted members, two of whom should be women.
5. On 22 November 2022, the audit, governance and standards committee agreed criteria for selecting co-opted members:

Invitees should:

- Have a good understanding of the borough and its diverse communities
- Be familiar with the of 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.

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.

6. It is necessary for the audit, governance and standards committee to appoint the co-opted members formally; and the names of the volunteers will be presented in the closed appendix.

KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

7. The granting of awards is a constitutional function of the 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.
8. Members need to be satisfied that the co-opted membership nominations meet the appropriate criteria.

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

Community impact statement

9. The council is committed to promoting civic engagement and good relations in our communities. The awards attract media interest and recognise the voluntary work of a number of people and organisations within Southwark, thus strengthening community cohesion.

Equalities (including socio-economic) impact statement

10. This report is not considered to contain any proposals that would have a significant equalities impact.

Health impact statement

11. This report is not considered to contain any proposals that would have a significant health impact.

Climate change implications

12. This report is not considered to contain any proposals that would have a significant impact on climate change.

Resource implications

13. There are none.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
Southwark Constitution	Constitutional Team 2nd floor, 160 Tooley Street London, SE1 2QH http://moderngov.southwark.gov.uk/ieListMeetings.aspx?CommitteeId=425	Virginia Wynn-Jones 020 7525 7055

APPENDICES

Appendix	Title
Appendix 1	Nominees – see CLOSED AGENDA

AUDIT TRAIL

Lead Officer	Stephen Douglass, Director of Communities	
Report Author	Virginia Wynn-Jones, Constitutional team	
Version	Final	
Dated	19 January 2024	
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	No	No
Cabinet Member	No	No
Date final report sent to Constitutional Team	19 January 2024	