

Item No. 6.	Classification: Open	Date: 4 March 2024	Meeting Name: Audit, Governance and Standards (Civic Awards) Sub-Committee
Report title:		Southwark Civic Awards 2024	
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 grants 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 grants 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 2024 awards were open for nominations for nine 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 Wednesday 22 May 2024 at 6pm. 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.

8. 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
 - Southwark Together Award
 - The Climate Champion Award
 - The Mayor's Discretionary Award

New Climate Champion Award

9. Council assembly recommended the establishment of a Climate Champion Award as part of the civic awards in July 2023. The audit, governance and standards committee agreed nomination and award criteria for the Climate Champion Award at its meeting on 6 September 2023.
10. 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.
11. 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.
12. In addition strong applications for this award 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.

KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

13. 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.
14. 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.
15. 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). Audit, governance and 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

16. 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

17. 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

18. 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

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

Financial implications

20. 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	20 February 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	22 February 2024	