

<b>Meeting Name:</b>	Audit, Governance and Standards Committee
<b>Date:</b>	5 September 2024
<b>Report title:</b>	Membership of audit, governance and standards sub-committees for 2024-25
<b>Ward(s) or groups affected:</b>	All
<b>Classification:</b>	Open
<b>Reason for lateness (if applicable):</b>	N/A
<b>From:</b>	Assistant Chief Executive – Governance and Assurance

## RECOMMENDATION

1. That the committee appoint one member to the vacant position on the audit, governance and standards (standards) sub-committee.
2. That the committee appoint one member to the vacant position on the audit, governance and standards (civic awards) sub-committee.

## BACKGROUND INFORMATION

3. Southwark Council's constitution sets out as part of the role and responsibilities of the audit, governance and standards committee to establish the following sub-committees:
  - standards sub-committee; to consider complaints of misconduct against elected councillors and co-opted members
  - civic awards sub-committee; to consider civic awards.
4. The responsibilities of these two sub-committees are excerpted from the constitution below:

### **PART 3K: AUDIT, GOVERNANCE AND STANDARDS COMMITTEE**

#### **Matters reserved for decision by the standards sub-committee**

40. To consider complaints of misconduct against elected councillors and co-opted members.

#### **Matters reserved for decision by the civic awards sub-committee**

41. To grant civic awards.

42. To consider the process by which the decisions with respect to civic awards applications are to be taken and to make

recommendations to the audit, governance and standards committee.

43. To appoint non-voting co-opted members of the civic awards sub-committee.

## **KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION**

5. The membership for these sub-committees is drawn from the main committee. It is constitutional to appoint reserve members of the audit, governance and standards committee to membership of the sub-committees.
6. In its June 2024 meeting, the audit, governance and standards committee appointed members to two of the positions of three in the standards sub-committee, and three of the four positions in the civic awards sub-committee.
7. These are:
  - Standards sub-committee**  
Chair: Cllr Michael Situ (Lab)  
Cllr Nick Johnson (Lib Dem)  
+1
  - Civic awards sub-committee**  
Chair: Cllr Barrie Hargrove (Lab)  
Cllr Graham Neale (Lib Dem)  
Cllr Margy Newens (Lab)  
+1
8. There is one meeting of the civic awards sub-committee, around February of each year to discuss and agree the grants of civic awards.
9. The standards sub-committee meets when it is required on an ad hoc basis; it has been required once in the past five years.
10. The meeting of the audit, governance and standards committee of 14 July 2016 recommended that the civic awards sub-committee be gender-balanced, with at least two of the Southwark members and two of the community representatives serving on the sub-committee being women. This is not a constitutional requirement.
11. Sub-committees are not 'ordinary' committees and are each considered individually for the purposes of proportionality. So far as it is reasonably practicable to do so, the allocation of seats a sub-committee should bear the same proportion to the number of the seats held by that group on the council. The audit, governance and standards committee can agree an allocation that is disproportionate, provided no member votes against this.

12. The most proportionate allocation will depend on the number of members of the sub-committee. The following sub-committee sizes would provide the following allocation of places:

<b>Sub-committee</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Lab</b>	<b>Lib Dem</b>
Audit, governance and standards (civic awards) sub-committee	4	3	1
Audit, governance and standards (standards) sub-committee	3	2	1

**Co-opted members of the civic awards sub-committee**

13. 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.
14. 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. 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.
15. 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 must be women.
16. Recommendations for the position of co-opted members of the civic awards sub-committee will be sought from members of the audit, governance and standards committee in 2024.

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

**Community impact statement**

17. Clear arrangements concerning the accountability of members are very important for promoting high standards of conduct. In addition it is important in aiding the decision-making process and helping to boost public confidence in the council. These arrangements ensure that members of the public are aware of the process in place to ensure that high standards of conduct are maintained within the council.
18. 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**

19. There are none.

**Health impact statement**

20. There are none.

**Climate change implications**

21. There are none.

**Resource implications**

22. There are none.

**Consultation**

23. None required.

**APPENDICES**

No.	Title
	None

**BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

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

## 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>	27 August 2024	
<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	N/A	N/A
Strategic Director of Finance	No	No
<b>Cabinet Member</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>No</b>
<b>Date final report sent to Constitutional Team</b>	27 August 2024	