

Item No. 6.	Classification: Open	Date: 8 March 2017	Meeting Name: Audit, Governance and Standards (Civic Awards) Sub-Committee
Report title:		Southwark Civic Awards 2017	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All	
From:		Strategic Director of Housing and Modernisation	

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the sub-committee considers the short-listed nominations for civic awards outlined in the closed report and grant awards as appropriate (see paragraph 6).
2. That the sub-committee considers the nomination from the Mayor (if any, outlined in the closed report) for a discretionary award and grant 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 2015/2016 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 also resolved that the decisions on the granting of civic awards be delegated to a sub-committee of the standards committee. In 2016/17, this became a sub-committee of the audit, governance and standards committee, as the two committees were merged.
5. The 2017 awards scheme gave a period of twelve weeks for nominations to be received. Nominations received are being considered by a short listing panel as to the number of individual and organisational nominations that satisfy the awards criteria. The panel will also establish whether any of the nominees have already been honoured with a Southwark civic award of equal or greater status.
6. Following the short listing, details of all nominees, including a single nomination for the Mayor's Discretionary Award, if any, will be presented to the standards (civic awards) sub-committee in a closed report, for consideration by the sub-committee at this meeting.
7. This year's awards ceremony will take place at Southwark Cathedral on Saturday 13 May 2017. The ceremony will be combined with Mayor Making in a joint civic ceremony that will be followed by a reception.

KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

8. 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.
9. 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.
10. In November 2009, council assembly agreed the introduction of a discretionary Mayor's award. The eligibility criteria for this award are also outlined in Appendix A.
11. 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). 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 strategic director for housing and modernisation. Such delegation would only allow for an award not to be made on the grounds set out above.

Resource implications

12. Combining Southwark Civic Awards, Mayor Making and the Freedom of the Borough in one location and on one date will mean that all can be managed within existing staff and financial resources. Previously these three ceremonies were arranged as separate events on different dates.

Community impact statement

13. The council is committed to promoting civic engagement and good relations in our communities. Application forms are distributed widely throughout the borough and any person is able to submit a nomination online at any time during the call for nominations. The awards attract media interest and recognise the voluntary work of a number of people and organisations within Southwark, thus strengthening community cohesion.

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	Stephen Douglass, Director of Communities		
Report Author	Virginia Wynn-Jones, Principal Constitutional Officer		
Version	Final		
Dated	28 February 2017		
Key Decision?	No		
CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / CABINET MEMBER			
Officer Title		Comments Sought	Comments Included
Director of Law and Democracy		No	No
Strategic Director of Finance and Governance		No	No
Cabinet Member		No	No
Date final report sent to Constitutional Team			28 February 2017

APPENDIX A

SOUTHWARK CIVIC AWARDS 2016

RATIONALE, CATEGORIES, CRITERIA, ELIGIBILITY

Since 1997 the Southwark Civic Awards scheme has honoured hundreds of individuals and organisations across the borough. Apart from the rarely conferred Honorary Freedom of Southwark, the awards are the most prestigious the council can make and in 2016 they become even more exceptional still with the conferring of a small number of awards in these categories:

The Liberty of the Old Metropolitan Borough of Bermondsey (Category 1)

The Liberty of the Old Metropolitan Borough of Camberwell (Category 2)

The Liberty of the Old Metropolitan Borough of Southwark (Category 3)

The Young Citizen of the Year Award (Category 4)

The Mayor's Special Award (Category 5)

What are we looking for?

With this awards scheme the key words are 'active citizenship' and 'exceptional achievement'. We are in search of people, projects, organisations and businesses worthy of being singled out and publicly recognised for their generous use of time, ideas, energy and resources for the betterment of others.

We are also looking for shining examples of civic mindedness, personal courage, or service to family or community that is above and beyond the ordinary. We want the recipients of these awards to know that the difference they have made to the lives of others, or indeed the life of the borough, is recognised at the highest level.

Examples may include, but are not restricted to:

- Outstanding personal service to the young or the elderly.
- A community organisation or person that has improved the lives of many.
- A project or event that has helped to build bridges between cultures and communities.
- An act of personal courage or generosity.
- Innovation in business or the improvement of the local economy.
- Enhancement of the borough's culture, heritage and reputation.

The Liberty Awards

The Southwark Civic Awards celebrate our roots as 'London's most historic borough' by conferring the liberties of the three metropolitan boroughs from which The London Borough of Southwark was formed in 1965 – Bermondsey, Camberwell, and Southwark.

We also want to recognise exceptional contributions to civic, community or family life by individuals, businesses, projects or organisations in the geographical areas they once

covered. Those nominated for one of these awards may have given a lifetime or many years of service, or made an exceptional contribution to civic and community life in the previous year (2015).

The Old Metropolitan Borough of Bermondsey incorporates: Surrey Docks, Rotherhithe, South Bermondsey, Riverside, and Grange wards.

The Old Metropolitan Borough of Camberwell incorporates: Camberwell Green, Peckham, Livesey, South Camberwell, The Lane, Nunhead, Brunswick Park, Peckham Rye, Village, East Dulwich, and College wards.

The Old Metropolitan Borough of Southwark incorporates: Cathedrals, Chaucer, East Walworth, Faraday, and Newington wards.

The Young Citizen of the Year Award

This award will recognise the exceptional community spirit, generosity or civic mindedness of a youth or young adult under the age of 25 in any part of the borough. As with the 'liberties', you may nominate a young citizen who has contributed several years of service to community or family life, or has made an outstanding contribution in the previous year alone (2015). The recipient of this award must be a Southwark resident.

The Mayor's Special Award

This discretionary award will allow Southwark's current First Citizen, Councillor Dora Dixon-Fyle MBE, to exercise her personal judgement as to which individual, business, project or organisation in any part of the borough has made the most outstanding contribution to community life.

This person, business, project or organisation may be one of those already honoured with a Liberty or Young Citizen of the Year award, or it may be another worthy of being singled out for a lifetime or a year of outstanding achievement.

Eligibility and exclusions

The council welcomes nominations for any individual whose unpaid voluntary activity is unrelated to, or is additional to, the nominee's current employment. We also welcome nominations for any community group, organisation or business which is based in and/or benefits the Southwark community.

Serving elected members of Southwark Council may not be nominated but they may freely nominate others. Employees of Southwark Council are also excluded from being nominated, unless it is for unpaid voluntary activity which is unrelated to or is additional to their current employment. Council employees may also nominate individuals, projects or organisations.

As the Southwark Civic Awards scheme for 2016 does not supersede any earlier scheme, previous recipients of equal or greater awards in the scheme may not be nominated. Those who received a Letter of Commendation in the past may however be nominated.

Recipients of awards in other council-operated or supported award schemes such as Housing Heroes 2015 or Southwark Stars 2016 may be nominated for the Southwark Civic Awards.