

<b>Item No.</b> 8.	<b>Classification:</b> Open	<b>Date:</b> 20 October 2020	<b>Meeting Name:</b> Audit Governance and Standards Committee
<b>Report title:</b>		Formation of audit, governance and standards sub-committees for 2020-21	
<b>Ward(s) or groups affected:</b>		All	
<b>From:</b>		Director of Law and Democracy	

## RECOMMENDATION

1. That the committee appoint four members to form the audit, governance and standards (civic awards) sub-committee.
2. That the committee appoint a chair of the sub-committee.
3. That the committee appoint three members to form the audit, governance and standards (standards) sub-committee.
4. That the committee appoint a chair of the sub-committee.

## BACKGROUND INFORMATION

5. 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.
6. 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 conduct 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**

7. The membership for these sub-committees is drawn from the main committee.

### **Civic awards sub-committee**

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 Labour group have nominated Councillor Dora Dixon-Fyle as the chair of the civic awards sub-committee.
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.

### **Standards sub-committee**

11. The standards sub-committee meets when it is required on an ad hoc basis; it has been required once in the past five years.
12. The Labour group have nominated Councillor Michael Situ as the chair of the standards sub-committee.

### **Proportionality**

13. 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.
14. 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

## Community impact statement

15. 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.
16. 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.

## 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
<a href="http://moderngov.southwark.gov.uk/ieListMeetings.aspx?CId=425&amp;Year=0">http://moderngov.southwark.gov.uk/ieListMeetings.aspx?CId=425&amp;Year=0</a>		

## AUDIT TRAIL

<b>Lead Officer</b>	Doreen Forrester-Brown, Director of Law and Democracy	
<b>Report Author</b>	Virginia Wynn-Jones, Principal Constitutional Officer	
<b>Version</b>	Final	
<b>Dated</b>	12 October 2020	
<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>
Director of Law and Democracy	N/A	N/A
Strategic Director of Finance and Governance	No	No
<b>Cabinet Member</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>No</b>
<b>Date final report sent to Constitutional Team</b>	12 October 2020	