

Item No. 7.	Classification: Open	Date: 8 February 2021	Meeting Name: Audit, governance and standards committee
Report title:		Civic Awards 2019/20 and 2020/21	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All	
From:		Director of Communities	

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the audit, governance and standards committee note the arrangements for the Mayor of Southwark to present the Southwark civic awards 2019/20.
2. That the audit, governance and standards committee note the arrangements for the Southwark civic awards 2020/21.
3. That the audit, governance and standards committee consider if there are any amendments it would suggest to the arrangements set out for the Southwark civic awards 2020/21.
4. That the audit, governance and standards committee consider the guidelines for a new civic award for diversity.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

5. The London Borough of Southwark presents civic awards annually to people who live or work in Southwark who have demonstrated exceptional community spirit. These are chosen by the audit, governance and standards (civic awards) sub-committee, after nomination by any member of the public.
6. Previously, the civic awards have been held on the same day as the annual mayor-making ceremony, with the awards being presented by the Mayor of Southwark and former Mayors of Southwark.

KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

Civic Awards 2019/20

7. Due to the covid-19 pandemic, it has not been possible to present the awards in in the standard way during 2020. The Mayor plans to present these awards in a socially distanced away by the end of February 2021.

8. To enable the award winners to receive their scrolls, individual doorstep presentations be made by the Mayor and this will be commemorated with a hybrid recording of the Mayor reading the citation of each recipient which will then be made into an interactive Civic Awards book similar to the Civic awards presented by Barnet Mayor's Office www.barnetcivicevents.co.uk

Civic Awards 2020/21

9. The citizens of Southwark have demonstrated great community spirit and determination in the face of the Covid19 pandemic. The Mayor of Southwark has suggested that the civic awards for 2021 be altered to celebrate the solidarity, sacrifice and success of Southwark's residents in these exceptional times.
10. The awards will focus and administration reflect the times that we are in. The nomination process will simpler, with less sifting and more recipients for Coronavirus Community Excellence Awards, than for normal times Civic Awards.
11. Normally, nominees for civic awards cannot receive awards if they are subject to rent arrears or criminal charges. The nominees for the civic awards 2020/21 will not be put under this scrutiny.
12. The intent is to celebrate anyone whose actions have helped others and the borough as a whole in the exceptional circumstances of the pandemic, regardless of their history, as the awards are to recognise immediate efforts over the past year.
13. As well, it will help ensure that any nominees can be given the awards in a timely fashion, and the process itself can be made more accessible and smoother for everyone involved.
14. Nominations will be asked for from 1 April 2021, in local newspapers, the Southwark website, and via social media. Nominations will close on 1 May 2021. The audit, governance and standards (civic awards) sub-committee will convene in June 2021 to decide on the nominations, and a celebration will be arranged in July 2021.
15. Following government guidance, that celebration will be either:
 - A ceremony at Southwark Cathedral in a limited and socially distanced way to meet the current guidelines at the time
 - Individual doorstep presentations and hybrid on line commemorative recordings and book, similar to the presentations made for the 2019/20 Civic Awards

Diversity Award

16. Council assembly recommended a new civic award be created, celebrating Diversity. This will be inaugurated in 2022.

17. The outline qualifications for the civic awards are set out in Appendix A. The committee are invited to consider what guidelines would be appropriate and meaningful for the diversity award.
18. The award will be decided on by the audit, governance and standards (civic awards) sub-committee along with the current civic awards.

Policy implications

19. There are none.

Community impact statement

20. Members of the community who work above and beyond deserve to be recognised and supported. The Southwark Civic Awards are a method of allowing the Council to demonstrate its appreciation for all the citizens who care for the borough and the people in it.
21. Members of the community who have shown great care and compassion for their communities by volunteering and assisting during the COVID-19 Pandemic. By their civic mindedness they have gone above and beyond and deserve to be recognized and supported. The Southwark COVID Civic Awards are a method of allowing the Council to demonstrate its appreciation for all the citizens who care for the borough and the people in it.

Resource implications

22. Costs for this will be supported within the current budgets.

Legal implications

23. There are none.

Financial implications

24. There are none.

Consultation

25. Consultation has taken place with relevant stakeholders.

SUPPLEMENTARY ADVICE FROM OTHER OFFICERS

26. There is no supplementary advice required.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
None		

APPENDICES

No.	Title
Appendix 1	Guidelines for Civic Awards

AUDIT TRAIL

Lead Officer	Stephen Douglass, Director of Communities	
Report Author	Jacqui Brazil, Civic officer	
Version	Final	
Dated	29 January 2021	
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	29 January 2021	

APPENDIX A

SOUTHWARK CIVIC AWARDS

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 Discretionary 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 (2019).

The Old Metropolitan Borough of Bermondsey incorporates: London Bridge and West Bermondsey, North Bermondsey, Rotherhithe, South Bermondsey and Surrey Docks wards.

The Old Metropolitan Borough of Camberwell incorporates: Camberwell Green, Champion Hill, Dulwich Hill, Dulwich Village, Dulwich Wood, Goose Green, Nunhead & Queen's Road, Old Kent Road, Peckham, Peckham Rye, Rye Lane and St Giles wards.

The Old Metropolitan Borough of Southwark incorporates: Borough and Bankside, , Chaucer, Faraday, Newington, North Walworth, and St George's 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 (2019). The recipient of this award must be a Southwark resident.

The Mayor's Discretionary Award

This discretionary award will allow Southwark's current First Citizen, Councillor Sandra Rhule, 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 2020 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 2019 or Southwark Stars 2019 may be nominated for the Southwark Civic Awards.