

LONDON BOROUGH OF CROYDON

REPORT:	Civic Mayoralty and Honorary Freedom Selection Committee	
DATE OF DECISION	22nd April 2024	
REPORT TITLE:	Recommendations – Civic Mayor and Civic Awards	
CORPORATE DIRECTOR / DIRECTOR:	Stephen Lawrence-Orumwense Director of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer	
LEAD OFFICER:	Adrian May Interim Head of Democratic Service adrian.may@croydon.gov.uk	
DECISION TAKER:	Full Council: It is a function of this committee to make recommendations directly to the Council on the selection of The Civic Mayor; persons that should be admitted to the Roll of Honorary Aldermen/Alderwomen, Persons or organisations that should be granted Freedom of the Borough and Honorary Recorder.	
CONTAINS EXEMPT INFORMATION?	YES	Part exempt By virtue of Paragraph 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (Information Relating to Any Individual)
WARDS AFFECTED:	N/A	

1 SUMMARY OF REPORT

- 1.1** Croydon Council operates a civic awards scheme, which includes an Honorary Aldermen/Alderwomen scheme and Freedom of the Borough award. The Civic Mayoralty and Honorary Freedom Selection Committee has the responsibility of agreeing and submitting recommendations for the honorary titles at a Special Council meeting. Recommendations are being made at this meeting.
- 1.2** The Civic Mayoralty and Honorary Freedom Selection Committee also has the responsibility for recommending to Council the appointment of the Civic Mayor (which is also the Chair of Council) for the next municipal year. A recommendation to the Annual Council Meeting is being sought for agreement at this meeting.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

For the reasons set out in the report the committee is asked to:

- 2.1** Having regard to the selection criteria set out at paragraphs 4.1 and 4.2 and reasons for the nominations set out in the accompanying exempt (Part B)

report, Appendix A hereto;

- 2.2** Consider and recommend to a Special Council meeting that the Civic Honours be awarded to such of those nominee/s, as detailed in the exempt (Part B) report, Appendix A hereto, as are agreed at this meeting;
- 2.3** Recommend to Annual Council the appointment for the role of Civic Mayor/Chair of Council, for the municipal year 2024/25 at Council's Annual meeting and note the nomination for Deputy Chair, as agreed at this meeting.

3 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1** Responsibility of the Committee is to receive nominations from Members for any honorary awards and make recommendations to Full Council in this regard, and that this be in time for agreement at a Special Council Meeting (held just before the Annual Council Meeting, on the 22nd May 2024). The presentation would take place during the Annual Council Meeting.
- 3.2** The Committee has responsibility for recommending to Full Council the appointment of the person to serve as Civic Mayor / Chair of Council for the upcoming municipal year. This appointment is made at Annual Council. .

4 BACKGROUND AND DETAILS

- 4.1** In line with the London Borough of Croydon Constitution (paragraph 6.1 Part 4A, Council Procedure Rules) nominations for the awards of Honorary Aldermen and Honorary Alderwomen must be people who are former elected members of the London Borough of Croydon, who have either:
 - 4.1.1** Rendered eminent service in their capacity as Member, considering the contribution they have made to the borough, including roles served and how their service rendered is above and beyond that expected of all Members; or,
 - 4.1.2** Served a period of twelve years on the Council.
- 4.2** Freedom of the Borough is an award dedicated to 'Persons of distinction who have rendered eminent service to Croydon'.
- 4.3** Nominations are discussed and held in private. The exempt (Part B) report, Appendix A hereto, details the nominees for the Civic Awards.

5 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 5.1** No applicable.

6 CONSULTATION

- 6.1 The nominations for Aldermen/Alderwomen were asked from the political groups which had previously serving Members of Croydon Council.
- 6.2 The Chair of the Committee was consulted around the frequency of the conveying of the Freedom of the Borough award, as this is not detailed in the Constitution.
- 6.3 The Chair is minded to follow the tradition of the Freedom Awards being granted every few years (i.e., continues to be considered and conveyed roughly once per term / every few years) as the highest award the borough can convey. One nomination for Freedom of the Borough (submitted) will be considered as part of the next round of Freedom Awards.
- 6.4 The Chair has asked officers for a process to be developed and presented to a meeting of the Civic Mayoralty & Honorary Freedom Selection Committee for consideration, in time for the next round of Freedom Awards

7. CONTRIBUTION TO EXECUTIVE MAYOR'S BUSINESS PLAN

- 7.1 Honorary title schemes give recognition to individuals and thanks for the Communities they serve. It supports the Mayor's Corporate Plan, through supporting Priority 2: Becoming a council which listens to, respects and works in partnership with Croydon's diverse communities and businesses.

8. IMPLICATIONS

8.1 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1.1 Finance have reviewed the report. All financial implications (production of award recipient certificates) can be met with existing budgets.

8.1.2 Revenue and Capital consequences of report recommendation

	Current Year	Medium Term Financial Strategy – 3 year forecast		
	2024-25 £'000	2025-26 £'000	2026-27 £'000	2027-28 £'000
Revenue Budget Available	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
Expenditure to Date	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Effect of decision from report - maximum	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0
Remaining Budget	0.8	1	1	1

8.1.3 Comments approved by Lesley Shields, Head of Finance for Assistant Chief Executive and Resources on behalf of the Director of Finance. 09/04/2024

8.2 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

8.2.1 Under Section 249 (1) of the Local Government Act 1972 (the 1972 Act), the Council may confer the title of honorary aldermen or honorary alderwomen on persons who have, in the opinion of the Council, rendered eminent services to the Council as former Members but who are not currently serving Members. This may be done by a resolution passed by not less than two thirds of the Members voting thereon at a Council meeting specially convened for the purpose with notice of the object of the meeting having been given. Under Section 249(5) of the 1972 Act the Council may admit persons of distinction, and persons who have, in the Council's opinion, rendered eminent services to Croydon to be honorary freemen or honorary freewomen of Croydon, again by a resolution passed by not less than two thirds of the Members voting on it, at a specially convened meeting where notice of the object of the meeting has been given.

Comments approved by the Head of Litigation & Corporate Law on behalf of the Director of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer. (Date 10/04/2024)

8.3 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

8.3.1 Generally when identifying and making nominations for honorary civic awards, it is advisable, whenever possible, that Members and Council considers the diverse communities within their authority area and nominations be reflective of the contributions by residents and organisations across communities.

9. APPENDICES

Exempt Appendix A: Nominations

10. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

10.1 N/A