

<b>COUNCIL</b>		
<b>Report Title</b>	Announcements or Communications	
<b>Key Decision</b>		Item No.
<b>Ward</b>		
<b>Contributors</b>	Acting Chief Executive (Head of Business & Committee)	
<b>Class</b>	Part 1	Date: 3 April 2019

## **Recommendation**

The Council is invited to receive any announcements or communications from the Mayor or the Acting Chief Executive.

### **1. New Zealand Terror Attack**

Following the outrage in Christchurch, a condolence letter was sent to the High Commissioner of New Zealand signed by the Mayor and supportive messages were sent to the mosques based in the borough.

The Council will be asked to observe a one minute silence in memory of the victims of this and subsequent terrorist attacks.

### **2. Retirement of Aileen Buckton**

At the heart of everything Aileen Buckton did during her long and distinguished career in Lewisham lay a commitment to placing the community at the centre of everything we did, both in the Council's work with residents and with our partners in delivering services.

Aileen arrived at Lewisham in March 1997 to head up the newly formed Community Affairs division. The vision was to form new partnerships between the council and the community; harnessing together residents, schools, voluntary groups and Council and other public services. This led to the first national compact agreement between a Council and the voluntary sector, establishing partnership working for the future. The partnership with the voluntary sector remains a strong one and the 'Lewisham Way' still drives the Council's way of working today.

In 2000, Leisure and Arts services were added to become the Culture and Community Services division. It was imperative to attract external funding to complement the council's own investment into a programme to improve the entire Leisure and Sports offer. Aileen secured the first government credits (£10m) for combined health and leisure provision to build the Downham Health and Leisure Centre. Funding was also obtained for many other sports centres and games areas across the borough, modernising facilities and giving homes to the borough's local sports organisations.

Aileen also had responsibility for Creative Lewisham, an approach to enhance the cultural offer in the borough leading to the arts playing their part in the regeneration of the borough. Iconic buildings such as, the Albany, Deptford Lounge and Manor House were built or

redeveloped. Others such as Trinity Laban and the Broadway Theatre joined in, ensuring that these venues were not just for the visitor but reached out to and became part of the local community. Creative Lewisham gave support to hundreds of small creative businesses, public art and encouraged wider participation in the arts.

In June 2005 Aileen became the Executive Director of Community Services, a new directorate. This brought crime reduction, public safety, Adult Social Care, Care and Health together with culture and community development.

In Adult Social Care, Aileen worked with the PCT to be one of the first London boroughs to integrate joint commissioning into the council. This led to more effective ways of getting the right care services for our citizens. Aileen developed neighbourhood working in adult social care bringing together all providers to support residents to remain in their own homes for as long as they can and to be connected to their local communities. Aileen prepared the evidence for the Council's case to save Lewisham Hospital's A&E and Maternity Services, and has chaired the London ADASS group.

Aileen has led the directorate by building strong and sustainable partnerships including with the Police and Health and always tried to include the voluntary and community sector.

At the core of the Community Services directorate has been the belief that engaging with local communities and giving a voice is essential to the true development of the social fabric of Lewisham. This includes the local assembly programme as well as the development of the model of community libraries. Aileen's ethos has shaped where we are today and will carry us successfully forward.

We thank Aileen for her service and wish her well for the future with new horizons and fresh challenges.

### **3. Cllr Janet Daby and Cllr Alex Feis-Bryce resignations**

On Wednesday 20 March, the Chief Executive received letters of resignation from Cllr Janet Daby and Cllr Alex Feis-Bryce.

Cllr Daby has been an outstanding councillor for Whitefoot over the last nine years. She founded the Whitefoot and Downham Community Food Plus Project for families in food poverty, and served as the Council's Cabinet Member for Community Safety for six years. Since her election to Parliament last year, Cllr Daby has been representing residents in Lewisham East. She believes that now is the right time to step down as a local councillor so she can fully concentrate on the demands of serving as an MP.

Since being elected to the Council last year, Cllr Feis-Bryce has been an advocate for the residents of Evelyn ward. He served on Council's Business Panel, Safer Stronger Communities Select Committee, the Licensing Committee and the Local Democracy Review Working Group. Cllr Feis-Bryce has recently become Chief Executive of a national human rights charity, a role that demands a lot of his time and he is no longer able to dedicate the time needed in the Town Hall to best serve the residents of Evelyn.

The Council thanks Cllr Daby and Cllr Feis-Bryce for their service.

There will be Council by-elections in Whitefoot and Evelyn on Thursday 2 May.

### **4. Alex Yee**

The Council is invited to offer its congratulations to Lewisham resident Alex Yee who finished second in his first World Triathlon Series race held in Abu Dhabi (see below link).

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/sport/av/triathlon/47497926>

Alex was a regular Youth Games/mini Marathon participant and received several awards from the Borough during his time as a junior

## **5. Mayoral Appointments**

The Mayor will bestow a chain of office on his choice of Mayoress for the municipal year 2019-20, Barbara Gray.

In addition to her role as Mayoress of Lewisham, the Mayor intends to appoint Barbara Gray to the role of Community Adviser for BAME health inequalities.

The Mayor intends to appoint Royston John to the role of Community Adviser for BAME career progression.