

COUNCIL		
Report Title	Announcements or Communications	
Key Decision		Item No.
Ward		
Contributors	Chief Executive	
Class	Part 1	Date: January 22 2020

Recommendation

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

Report of the Returning Officer

At the General Election in December 2019 the incumbent members Vicky Foxcroft, Janet Daby and Ellie Reeves were all re-elected for the three Lewisham constituencies. Council is asked to congratulate all three candidates on their success at the polls.

George Francis RIP

The long standing Chairperson of the New Cross Fire Parents' Committee, George Francis, died just before Christmas. His funeral, is taking place on Monday 20 January at 11.30a.m. at Hither Green Crematorium, in Verdant Lane.

New Cross Fire Anniversary

39th anniversary of the New Cross Fire, when 14 young people tragically lost their lives at a house fire in New Cross Road in 1981.

A short service of Remembrance will take place on Friday 17 January at 11a.m. in the Civic Suite. Refreshments are available both before and after the service.

The Council continues to support Bursary Awards each year of £25,000 shared between 4 or 5 students in memory of the victims.

Holocaust Memorial Day

Reverend David Rome the Minister from the Catford Synagogue will speak at the Council meeting and light a candle in memory of all victims of genocides and holocausts.

The Council will again mark Holocaust Memorial Day with a production at the Broadway Theatre on Sunday January 26 at 3pm. Tickets are £1 with proceeds going to the Aegis Trust and are available from Derek Johnson 0208 3148636. The theme this year is 'Stand Together'. At the Theatre the Keynote speaker will be Edwin Shuker from the Board of Deputies.

New Year's Honours List 2020

This year New Year's Honours list recognised former colleagues of Lewisham:

Former Executive Director Aileen Buckton has been awarded the MBE in recognition of her services to the community

Former Councillor David Michael has been awarded the MBE to recognise his services to Greater London.

Former Lewisham Executive Director and more recently as the retired Chief Executive of Islington Council Lesley Seary has been awarded the CBE for her services to Local Government

Former Executive Director and Deputy Chief Executive Rob Whiteman has been awarded the CBE in recognition of his services to public sector financial management

Former Lewisham resident Wlodka Robertson has been awarded the BEM in recognition of her services to Holocaust education. She is the wife of the former Councillor Bruce Robertson

Local resident from Forest Hill Emma Worley has been awarded the MBE for services to innovation in Philosophy Foundation.

New Year's Day Parade

Lewisham placed an entry into this year's New Year's Day parade and was in the top ten of all the London Borough entries. Lewisham was awarded a prize of £5,000 which will go towards the 999 club .

Mayor's Charity

Many members of the Council got up very early on a cold December morning last month to rattle buckets at various railway stations in the borough. A total of just over £1,900 was raised and this money given has already been deposited with the Mayor's charity, the 999 club.

Mayor's Winter Appeal

The Mayor is delighted to announce over £17,000 was raised over a five week period, with the proceeds being shared by the 999 club and Lewisham Food Bank.

Launch of Lewisham Disabled People's Commission

The Council launched the Lewisham Disabled People's Commission on International Day of Persons with Disabilities in December 2019. Local resident Jamie Hale has been appointed to Chair the Commission, which will explore ways to make the borough more accessible for disabled people. The Chair of the Commission will be recruiting Commissioners to support their work. The establishing of the Commission is part of the Council's corporate strategy commitment to make public services more accessible and make it easier to get around Lewisham.

The first meeting of the Commission is taking place at Deptford Lounge on Wednesday 29 January. It will be held in public and anyone can attend and observe.

LGBT History Month

The Council will be celebrating LGBT History Month in February. Among the many events planned, Lewisham will host the first London-wide reception of LGBT+ Councillors, the Young Mayor is inviting secondary school pupils to an interactive event in the Civic Suite to facilitate the expression of ideas and views, and he is hosting an intergenerational meeting between the Positive Aging Council and the Young Mayor's Advisors.

Councillor Joani Reid

1 Summary

Following a communication received from Labour Group Officers, this report seeks the Council's approval of the reason for non-attendance of Councillor Joani Reid at Council meetings.

2 Purpose of this report

To approve the reason for Councillor Reid's non-attendance at Council meetings

3 Recommendation

The Council is recommended to approve the reason for Councillor Joani Reid's non-attendance at Council meetings since 30/10/19, as set out in this report.

4 Background

4.1 Councillor Reid's last attendance at a Council meeting was at the Mayor & Cabinet on 30 October 2019. She gave birth to her first child yesterday.

4.2 Section 85(1) Local Government Act 1972 states that if a member of a local authority fails, throughout a period of six consecutive months from the date of his/her last attendance, to attend any meeting of the authority, then unless the failure was due to a reason approved by the authority before the expiry of that period, they cease to be a member.

4.3 If the Council approves the reason for the non-attendance as proposed, Councillor Reid will not cease to be a member on expiry of her 6 months absence. Were the Council not to approve the reason for absence, a vacancy would arise on expiry of the six month period of absence.

5 Legal implications

These are set out in the body of the report

6 Financial implications

There are no financial implications

7 Conclusion

Council is asked to approve the reason for Councillor Reid's absence as set out in this report.