



Council

Announcements and Communications

Date: 23 November 2022

Key decision: N/a

Class: Part 1

Ward(s) affected: n/a

Contributors: Chief Executive (**Head of Governance and Committee Services**)

Outline and recommendations

Members are asked to receive any announcements or communications from the Speaker, the Mayor, members of the Executive or the Chief Executive.

1. Lewisham Youth Theatre funding success

We want to congratulate Lewisham Youth Theatre (LYT) who have received £422,678 over 5 years from the National Lottery Community Fund's Reaching Communities programme. Through free participatory theatre activities, LYT nurtures young people voices, helping them to expand their horizons and explore their creativity. The organisation is involved with community outreach for early years, schools and youth services. The Reaching Communities programme offers a large amount of funding (over £10,000) to organisations working in their community that build strong relationships in and across communities; improve the places that matter to communities; and help more people reach their potential.

We would also like to recognise the other National Portfolio Organisation grantees in the borough who receive funding from the National Lottery through Arts Council England: Spread The Word; Irie Dance; Deptford X; and Blink Dance.

2. Mayor's Business Awards

This event at Catford Library celebrated Lewisham's fantastic and diverse businesses community with over 2,000 nomination and 6,000 votes from the public. This was the first time that voting was opened to the public, making the awards more

representative of the borough. The Mayor was joined at the event by Councillors and industry representatives – including Federation of Small Businesses (FSB) – alongside Lewisham’s business community. Winners on the night included Lewisham Youth Theatre named as Best in Creative Sector; Lewisham Market awarded Best Market; and Lewisham Donation Hub winning Best Community Contribution. The full list of winners is on our website:

<https://lewisham.gov.uk/articles/news/lewisham-business-community-celebrated-at-awards-ceremony>

3. Lewisham Council wins national award for Covid work with small businesses

Lewisham Council has received a Federation of Small Businesses (FSB) Local Government award in the category of Covid-19 Support and Recovery. This category aimed at highlighting those local authorities that had made the most significant impact on local SMEs during the pandemic and beyond. Lewisham Council was among 250 councils in England who entered the inaugural FSB Local Government awards and received one of just four national trophies on offer. Judges were impressed by ‘Lewisham Backs Business’, a partnership of key stakeholders which has helped deliver support to over 21,000 businesses. Moreover, a discretionary grants scheme was adapted to support local businesses, helping to establish a network of 60 local businesses deemed vital to the borough’s future growth.

4. Borough of Culture finale event approaching

In 2022, Lewisham has been the Mayor of London’s Borough of Culture which has seen the borough celebrating its creativity and diversity through a year of events. In a range of venues, from parks to street corners, we have told the story of Lewisham’s past and present via public art, music, dance and more. As we come to the end of the year, we are looking forward to our spectacular finale event ‘LIT!’ in Beckenham Place Park on 21 December as well as other closing events. Find more details of the event on the ‘We Are Lewisham’ website

<https://www.wearelewisham.com/event/lit/>

5. Past Medals of Office

It is common practice to recognise the people who have held civic office by presenting them with a commemorative medal, to express the gratitude of the Council and in recognition of the commitment to their roles undertaking civic engagements on behalf of the London Borough of Lewisham.

The immediate former Speaker, Councillor Jacq Paschoud, and her consort, Councillor John Paschoud, are invited to come up to receive their medals from the Speaker.