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MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL

Wednesday, 14 March 2018 at 7.00 pm

PRESENT: Sir Steve Bullock (Mayor), Councillors Obajimi Adefiranye (Chair), Chris Barnham, Paul Bell, Chris Best, Kevin Bonavia, Andre Bourne, Suzannah Clarke, Janet Daby, Brenda Dacres, Amanda De Ryk, Joe Dromey, Damien Egan, Colin Elliott, Alan Hall, Maja Hilton, Simon Hooks, Mark Ingleby, Stella Jeffrey, Liz Johnston-Franklin, Jim Mallory, Paul Maslin, Sophie McGeevor, David Michael, Jamie Milne, Hilary Moore, Pauline Morrison, John Muldoon, Rachel Onikosi, Jacq Paschoud, John Paschoud, Pat Raven, Joan Reid, Jonathan Slater, Alan Smith, Luke Sorba, Eva Stamirowski, Alan Till, James-J Walsh and Susan Wise.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Peter Bernards, Councillor Bill Brown, Councillor John Coughlin, Councillor Carl Handley, Councillor Joyce Jacca, Councillor Roy Kennedy and Councillor Joan Millbank.

152. Declaration of Interests

None were made.

153. Appointment of a new Chief Executive

The item was introduced and the recommendations moved by the Chair of Council who had also served as Chair of the Appointments Panel. He stated the Panel had been faced with a very difficult decision choosing a successful candidate from a very high quality field.

The recommendations were seconded by the Mayor who thanked those who had advised the Panel and the partners, including the Young Mayor, who had taken part in the process. The Mayor extended special thanks to Janet Senior, the Acting Chief Executive, for her work carried out with aplomb over many years culminating in service in her present interim role. The Council joined the Mayor's remarks by giving Janet Senior a standing ovation.

Councillor Alan Hall recorded his thanks to the Chair for the role he had taken on the Appointments Panel.

Once the recommendations had been formally agreed, Ian Thomas the Chief Executive designate addressed the Council for the first time. He thanked the Council for endorsing his appointment and then recounted his life history and relevant experience before setting out a number of issues which he expected the Council to tackle. He ended by promising to be an active Chief Executive who would work with elected members and be visible in the community.

Prior to the end of the meeting the Council noted this would be the last business meeting of the Council attended by Sir Steve Bullock and a presentation was made to him accompanied by detailed speeches of thanks from the Chair and former Leader of the Council, Councillor Jim Mallory.

RESOLVED that

(1) the Appointments Panel's completion of a rigorous selection process to recruit a new Chief Executive be noted;

(2) the recommendation of the Appointments Panel, that Ian Thomas is appointed as Lewisham Council's new Chief Executive, with an anticipated start date of 14 May 2018, be accepted;

(3) the salary agreed was within the range approved by Council; and

(4) the Interim Acting Chief Executive arrangements, agreed by Council on 24 November 2017, cease on the arrival of the new Chief Executive.

The meeting closed at 7.35pm