

COUNCIL		
Report Title	Announcements or Communications	
Key Decision		Item No.
Ward		
Contributors	Acting Chief Executive	
Class	Part 1	Date: October 2 2019

Recommendation

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

1. Janet Senior

This is our interim Chief Executive, Janet Senior's last Council meeting. After over 30 years at Lewisham, Janet is an exemplary public servant who has demonstrated commitment and dedication in delivering services to our residents.

Janet is home-grown, joining Lewisham in September 1988 as a Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) trainee and qualifying in 1994. A career that has taken her from Team Leader in 1995 to Group Manager in 1998. During her time as Head of Resources from 2000 Janet was our S151 officer with stewardship of the Directorate's resources. At the end of 2004 she became the Executive Director of Resources and part of the Executive Management Team. A fresh challenge was absorbing the Regeneration area where Janet initially focused on the Council being more commercial and then strategically developing Place Shaping. She was able to use her considerable skills in engaging with the community and wider stakeholders.

Janet has provided a significant leadership role in innovative schemes including the Building Schools for the Future programme with a £240 million investment, Downham Health and Leisure Centre and our new street lighting. Despite the recession and a very challenging financial climate, Janet played a key role in working with the Greater London Authority (GLA) and a range of partners and developers to secure significant investment in Lewisham Gateway, Deptford and Catford over the last decade. As the Executive Director she has also worked closely with her colleagues in TfL to highlight the potential of the Bakerloo Line Extension to deliver fantastic benefits for Lewisham's residents and for South East London.

Janet has steered Lewisham through 10 years of austerity following the four star rating from the Audit Commission. We have a sound basis for moving forward.

Janet has always supported staff to reach their potential. She has been a mentor and buddy as well as championed the graduate scheme and nurtured new talent. She developed this at the Society of London Treasurers where she was Vice-

President and later President where she established an ambitious programme to invest in BAME staff thus ensuring a greater degree of diversity in the future. Janet participated on the Member and Student Development Board as part of work on the CIPFA Council. She has also been aware of the importance of developing the next generation of leaders in Local Government.

As well as being recognised as an ambassador for Lewisham, London and nationally Janet was appointed to the International Federation of Accountants, Professional Accountants in Business (IFAC PAIB) in 2016. This role includes global accountancy standard setting, developing the accountant of the future and understanding risk management.

In 2017 after almost 30 years of public service and as recognition by London Treasurers of her contribution to the stewardship of London's finances, Janet was made a Freewoman of the City of London. Janet's reputation amongst her peers and colleagues in Local Government is second to none.

We thank Janet for her service to Lewisham in showing fairness and integrity in all aspects of her work. As a great networker and communicator Janet will be missed by many friends and colleagues for her positive and supportive approach. We wish her well for the future and look forward to continuing our ties with her as a local resident.

2. Defence Employer Recognition Scheme – Gold Award

The Council has been informed by the Ministry of Defence that it has been awarded a Gold award under the Defence Employer Recognition Scheme. The award recognises the commitment that organisations are making as advocates for Defence People. The award will be presented at a ceremony in London later this year.

3. Black History Month

Black History Month runs every October and brings together a series of events that celebrate the culture, history and achievements of black and ethnic minority communities. The Black History Month flag will be flying outside the Civic Suite throughout October and there will be a programme of activities in our libraries following the launch in the Civic Suite.

4. Age Against the Machine, Festival of Creative Ageing

Age Against the Machine, Festival of Creative Ageing is a ground-breaking, radical arts festival showcasing and supporting the creative talents of older people. Following our bid for the Mayor of London's Borough of Culture in 2017 Lewisham won a Cultural Impact Award of £216,000 to host the Festival of Creative Ageing which is an opportunity to:

- Bring people together of all ages
- Celebrate our culture through music, dance, theatre and performance, and
- Provoke debate – The Guardian featured 'The Home' an immersive theatre experience that explored power and control in care homes

The festival ends on Sunday 6 October to coincide with Silver Sunday and Fun Palace weekend.

5. London Borough of Culture in 2021

London Borough of Culture is part of London's Mayor Sadiq Khan's plans to support the arts in London. The competition sees London's 32 boroughs bid for more than £1m of funding to stage a programme of cultural events and initiatives. The Council is in the process of pulling together our bid and would urge supporters to visit www.iamlewisham.uk to back the bid - #IAMLewisham.

6. Chair of the Lewisham Disabled People's Commission – closing date 7 October 2019

The Council is in the recruitment phase for the Chair of the Lewisham Disabled People's Commission which will help better understand the views of disabled people in the borough and what we need to do to ensure that Lewisham is the most accessible and inclusive borough in London.

7. Neighbourhood Community Infrastructure Levy

Lewisham Council's new Neighbourhood community infrastructure levy (NCIL) programme has launched and residents are invited to have their say on how the funding, levied on developers, should be prioritised for spending in their wards. Lewisham's NCIL programme is designed to help communities support the development of their local area and is the first in the country to give residents the power to vote to inform where the new investment goes. Lewisham is also the first local authority to use Indices of Multiple Deprivation (IMDs) to redistribute NCIL funding, so money will be redistributed among the most deprived wards. Residents have until 22 October to respond to the Council's [online consultation](#) on ward priorities for NCIL spending. Once the priorities have been agreed, the Council will ask the local community for project ideas and local groups can apply for funding for projects that address ward priorities.

8. Mayor's Business Awards – nominations close 18 October 2019

Lewisham has thousands of fantastic small businesses, and this is our opportunity to recognise some of those that make a real difference for our community, and create good quality jobs for our residents. Nominations can be made from the business or from customers in the following eight categories:

- Best Living Wage Employer
- Best Green Business
- Best Creative Business
- Investing in Skills Award
- Best Restaurant/Cafe/Bar
- Best Street Food Business
- Best Independent Shop
- Best Hair and Beauty Service

9. Mayor's Award for Volunteering – nominations close 21 October 2019

The Mayor's Award scheme was launched in 2017 to recognise people, community projects and businesses who volunteer in their spare time in Lewisham. Nominations are open for an unsung hero or group that is making Lewisham a better place to live in the following four categories:

- individual/volunteer – for their outstanding contribution to local community life

- organisation/business – for community engagement with the people of Lewisham
- young person achievement award (for people aged 21 and under)
- community group for their outstanding contribution to the community

10. Wellbeloved Butchers on Tanners Hill in Deptford

The Council is asked to congratulate the above business which has celebrated being in business for 190 years.