

| COUNCIL | | |
|---------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------|
| Report Title | Announcements or Communications | |
| Key Decision | | Item No. |
| Ward | | |
| Contributors | Chief Executive | |
| Class | Part 1 | Date: November 25 2020 |

Recommendation

The Council is invited to receive any announcements or communications from the Speaker, the Mayor, members of the Executive or the Chief Executive

1. White Ribbon Day

Wednesday 25th November is White Ribbon Day, marking 16 days of activism to end violence against women. Lewisham Council has pledged its support for White Ribbon Day and will be marking it by raising awareness of its anti-domestic violence services to residents and supporting the international campaign to end violence against women.

2. COVID support for businesses

Lewisham Council is committed to supporting local businesses and has been working throughout the pandemic to ensure they can access the support they need. The second national lockdown has significantly impacted local businesses and the Government has recently announced details of how local authorities should administer business support grants. Further information on Lewisham Council's business grant scheme will be announced shortly and further details will be published on the Council website:

<https://lewisham.gov.uk/myservices/business/business-support-during-covid-19>

3. Small Business Saturday

Saturday 5th December marks Small Business Saturday. While the second national lockdown is expected to end on Wednesday 2nd December, at which point regional lockdown are proposed to resume, it is unclear under what restrictions Lewisham businesses will be operating under. Residents are encouraged to support their small local businesses this Small Business Saturday either online or safely in person if they are able to.

4. Supporting people experiencing homelessness

Lewisham Council is the first in the country to take part in a pilot of Proxy Address to help people experiencing homelessness to access support through an innovative new approach. The Council has been working closely with Proxy Address to develop the service that allows people facing homelessness to 'borrow' an existing address so they can access vital services.

5. Lewisham on track to become a Sanctuary Borough

Lewisham Mayor and Cabinet have approved the Sanctuary Strategy, a ground breaking new policy that marks an important milestone in Lewisham becoming a Borough of Sanctuary for refugees, asylum-seekers and migrants.

Lewisham has a proud tradition of welcoming people fleeing violence and persecution. The Sanctuary Strategy aims to create a welcoming culture across all public services provided by the Council.

6. Free school meals

Over the school holidays, Lewisham Council supported local schools to provide free school meals to children who needed them. Lewisham's Mayoresses also fundraised over an impressive £34,000 to provide packed lunches for children over half term. We are proud of the support from our schools and the community and the Council will continue to make representations to Government to ensure no child has to go hungry.