

ASSEMBLY

21 July 2021

Title: Death of Former Councillor Marie West	
Report of the Chief Executive	
Open Report	For Information
Wards Affected: None	Key Decision: No
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Accountable Strategic Leadership Director: Chris Naylor, Chief Executive	
Summary <p>The Assembly is asked to note with deep regret that former Councillor and Mayor of the Borough, Marie (Margaret Mary) West, passed away on Tuesday 8 June at the age of 80.</p> <p>Marie was born in Cork, Ireland, on 11 April 1941 and came to England when she was five years old. Marie moved to the Borough when she married her husband, Ken, in January 1960 and never moved away. During her working career, Marie held a number of office jobs and her last and most enduring was as an Accounts Manager with British Telecom.</p> <p>Marie was first elected to the Council to represent the former Triptons ward in May 1998 and went on to become a councillor for the newly-formed Whalebone ward in May 2002, which she served until stepping down from the Council in May 2010.</p> <p>Marie served on numerous committees and sub-committees during her 12-year term, including the Licensing & Regulatory Committee, the Planning Committee and the Scrutiny Management Board. She was clearly passionate about the health, safety and wellbeing of Borough residents and particularly children, putting herself forward to serve on the Adoption Panel, the Health and Adult Services Select Committee, the Health and Social Care Partnership Arrangements Scrutiny Panel, the Anti-Social Behaviour Scrutiny Panel and the Anti-Age Discrimination Policy Commission and was also appointed as Chair of the GP Services Scrutiny Panel and Chair of the Health Scrutiny Panel, a position that she held for five years. Marie also represented the Council on the Governing Body of Henry Green Primary School and the Wellgate Community Forum.</p> <p>Marie was elected by her peers to become the Mayor of Barking & Dagenham for the 2005/06 municipal year and Deputy Mayor for 2006/07, with her husband Kenneth acting as her Consort, and took great pride in her role as First Citizen of the Borough. As well as her tireless fundraising, Marie very much enjoyed hosting events in the Mayor's Parlour to recognise the deserving efforts of countless individuals and groups.</p> <p>Outside of work and the Council, Marie enjoyed a busy social life surrounded by family and friends and was occasionally known to share her very good singing voice in public.</p>	

Although Marie suffered ill health in her final years, her family were extremely proud that she continued to make the best of her situation without complaint and live up to her motto to “spread a little sunshine” to the very end.

The funeral took place on Wednesday 30 June, with a service being held at St. Thomas More Catholic Church before going on to Forest Park Crematorium in Hainault. The funeral cortege passed in front of the former Council offices at the Civic Centre, Dagenham, where the current Mayor, Councillor Fergus, the Leader, Councillor Rodwell, and other Members and officers had gathered to pay their respects, and the Borough flag at the Town Hall, Barking was flown at half-mast throughout the day.

Marie leaves behind her husband Kenneth, daughter Jackie and son Paul, four grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Recommendation(s)

The Assembly is asked to mark the passing of Marie West with a minute’s silence in her memory.