

ASSEMBLY

25 January 2023

Title: Death of Rita Giles MBE and Freewoman of the Borough	
Report of the Acting Chief Executive	
Open Report	For Information
Wards Affected: None	Key Decision: No
Report Author: Alan Dawson, Head of Governance & Electoral Services	Contact Details: Tel: 020 8227 2348 E-mail: alan.dawson@lbbd.gov.uk
Accountable Director: Alison Stuart, Chief Legal Officer	
Accountable Strategic Leadership Director: Fiona Taylor, Acting Chief Executive	
Summary <p>As was verbally reported at the last meeting of the Assembly, Rita Giles MBE sadly passed away on Friday 18 November aged 87.</p> <p>Rita moved to Dagenham at the age of five and was an active member of the scouting movement in the Borough for over 40 years, starting as a member of the 7th Dagenham Scouts at the age of 14 and rising to the position of secretary of Dagenham Scouts. Rita was also a member of the Barking & Dagenham Youth Organisation and secretary of the Witten Twinning Committee.</p> <p>In 1982, Rita was invited to become a Justice of the Peace, a position she held for over 20 years until her retirement in 2005 aged 70. Many at the Council also remember Rita's tireless commitment to the Ibscott Close Tenants' and Residents' Association and the wider Community Housing Partnership and Dagenham Housing Forum.</p> <p>Rita was conferred the title of Honorary Freewoman of the Borough by the Council in February 2011 in recognition of her outstanding voluntary service to the local community. Those efforts were also recognised by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II with the award of an MBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours in 2012.</p> <p>Rita's funeral took place on Tuesday 13 December at South Essex Crematorium. The funeral cortege passed in front of the former Council offices at the Civic Centre, Dagenham, where the Mayor, Councillor Faruk Choudhury, the Leader, Councillor Darren Rodwell, and other Members and officers had gathered to pay their respects and present flowers. The Borough flag at the Town Hall, Barking was flown at half-mast throughout the day.</p>	
Recommendation(s) <p>The Assembly is asked to note the report.</p>	

