

ASSEMBLY

25 January 2023

Title: Death of Councillor Olawale Martins	
Report of the Acting Chief Executive	
Open Report	For Information
Wards Affected: None	Key Decision: No
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Accountable Director: Alison Stuart, Chief Legal Officer	
Accountable Strategic Leadership Director: Fiona Taylor, Acting Chief Executive	
Summary	
<p>The Assembly is asked to note with deep regret that serving Councillor, Mr Olawale Olubunmi Idowu Martins, passed away following a period of illness on Monday 28 November 2022, aged 63.</p>	
<p>Councillor Martins was first elected to the Council in 2018 to represent Heath Ward and was re-elected in May 2022. He served on a number of Council committees throughout his time on the Council and was the Deputy Chair of the Pensions Committee at the time of his passing.</p>	
<p>Councillor Ingrid Robinson, who was also newly-elected to represent Heath ward in 2018, was a close friend and colleague and has shared this message:</p>	
<p>“Councillor Martins thoroughly enjoyed his role as a public servant and genuinely cared for the community he served. He was a big personality, filling every room with his bubbly energy, laughter and big smile. As well as being a dedicated Socialist and family man, Councillor Martins was a ‘people’s champion’. His selflessness and passion for helping people impacted many lives and is testament to the man that he was. Outside of his Council activities, Councillor Martins was a Senior Apostle within his Church and an active member of the congregation. The high regard that he was held in was clearly evident at the service held in his memory and at his funeral.”</p>	
<p>Councillor Martins’ funeral took place on Thursday 5 January at Forest Park Cemetery. The funeral cortege passed in front of the Town Hall, Barking, 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 Leader also read aloud “The Borough’s Farewell”. The Borough flag at the Town Hall was flown at half-mast throughout the day.</p>	

Councillor Martins leaves behind his wife, Omowunmi, daughters Omolara and Ololade, son Olukayode, and grandson Nathaniel.

Recommendation(s)

The Assembly is asked to mark the passing of Councillor Martins with a minute's silence in his memory.