

## ASSEMBLY

29 September 2021

<b>Title:</b> Death of Former Councillor Inder Singh Jamu, Freeman and Alderman of the Borough	
<b>Report of the Chief Executive</b>	
<b>Open Report</b>	<b>For Information</b>
<b>Wards Affected:</b> None	<b>Key Decision:</b> No
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<b>Accountable Strategic Leadership Director:</b> Chris Naylor, Chief Executive	
<b>Summary</b>	
<p>The Assembly is asked to note with deep regret that former Councillor, Freeman and Alderman of the Borough, Inder Singh Jamu, passed away on Sunday 29 August at the age of 83.</p>	
<p>Inder Singh was born in the village of Nawan Pind, near the city of Amritsar in Punjab, India, on 22 October 1937. Inder Singh and his wife, Nirmal Kaur, had two of their three children, daughter Harpreet Kaur and son Amardeep Singh, while still in India before leaving their homeland and moving to the Borough in the mid 1960's, where they had another daughter, Jagdeep Kaur. Mr and Mrs Singh also had seven grandchildren.</p>	
<p>Inder Singh worked at the Ford Motor Company in Dagenham for 14 years before becoming a driving instructor and a member of the Driving Instructors' Association. He had been an active member of the Labour Party since 1974 and was first elected to the Council in November 1988, serving the River ward for over 25 years before stepping down in May 2014. During this time, he sat on a wide range of committees including the Licensing &amp; Regulatory Board, the Personnel Board, the Safer &amp; Stronger Select Committee, the Standards Committee, the Equal Opportunities in Employment Scrutiny Panel and the Improving Employment Prospects Policy Commission. Inder Singh also served as the Chair of the Children's Services Select Committee, Chair and Deputy Chair of the Public Accounts &amp; Audit Select Committee and, across over 14 years as a member of the Development Control Board / Planning Committee, he served as Chair for four years and Deputy Chair for six years.</p>	
<p>Inder Singh was also very active in the local community, serving as a School Governor at Dagenham Priory / Park School for over 26 years as well as sitting on the Community Health Council, the London Accident Prevention Council and acting as a 'Lay Visitor' for the Borough's Police Consultative Group, checking on the wellbeing of individuals detained at the Borough's Police Stations. He also held the position of Chair of the Asian Welfare Association, President of Akalidal London East and Chair of the Council for Racial Equality (CRE), on which he had served since the early 1970's. In recognition of his services to the CRE, Inder Singh was bestowed the title of Honorary Vice President.</p>	

Inder Singh was chosen by his peers to be Borough Mayor for the 1998/99 municipal year, becoming the first Asian Mayor of Barking & Dagenham, and was Deputy Mayor the following year. During this time, he was invited to Ypres in Belgium to join the three-day celebration in memory of British Sikhs and Indian Soldiers who laid down their lives in World War I and II and was particularly honoured to be a part of the unveiling ceremony of a memorial at the Museum of Ypres. Inder Singh continued to be a member of the London Mayors Association and attended its centenary celebrations in 2001 where he met Her Majesty the Queen. At the event, he gave the Queen his photograph of her official visit to India's Golden Temple in Amritsar in 1997 and later received a personal letter from the Queen which included the words "Your photograph brought back memories of what was a very happy tour; and also the importance of the Sikh community in the life of Britain today. Thank you for your thoughtfulness."

Inder Singh was awarded the Freedom of the Borough in 2008 and, in May 2017, became one of a very small group of former councillors to also be conferred the title of Honorary Alderman.

Away from his public duties, Inder Singh was an enthusiastic cyclist and was instrumental in the creation of the annual Sikh Charity Bike Ride first held in 2000, a 15-mile circular route taking in the three Boroughs of Barking and Dagenham, Newham and Redbridge to raise money for local and international charities. His other passions centred around his religious beliefs and a keen interest in gardening and travelling the world to learn about different cultures.

Inder Singh's funeral took place on Friday 10 September at Forest Park Crematorium in Hainault, with a religious ceremony held afterwards at the Barking Gurdwara. The funeral cortege passed in front of the former Council offices at the Civic Centre, Dagenham, where the Mayor, Councillor Fergus, the Leader, Councillor Rodwell, and other Members and officers had gathered to pay their respects. The Borough flag at the Town Hall, Barking was flown at half-mast throughout the day of the funeral.

### **Recommendation(s)**

The Assembly is asked to mark the passing of Inder Singh Jamu with a minute's applause in recognition of his contribution to the Borough.