

## ASSEMBLY

31 January 2024

The Chair will be asked to decide if this report can be considered at the meeting under the provisions of Section 100B(4)(b) of the Local Government Act 1972 as a matter of urgency to enable the Assembly to pay a timely tribute to Roy Patient who recently passed away.

<b>Title:</b> Death of Former Councillor Roy Patient, 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 Director:</b> Deirdre Collins, Head of Law	
<b>Accountable Executive Team Director:</b> Fiona Taylor, Chief Executive	
<b>Summary</b> <p>The Assembly is asked to note with deep regret that former Councillor, Freeman and Alderman of the Borough, Royston Alan James (Roy) Patient, sadly passed away in the early hours of Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> January 2024, aged 90.</p> <p>Roy was born in Barking on 19 August 1933 and was educated at Dorothy Barley Infant and Junior Schools and Erkenwald Secondary School. He spent most of his working life at Dagenham Motors and had a range of interests which he enjoyed with his wife, Pat, three daughters and numerous grandchildren.</p> <p>In May 1982, Roy was elected as a Labour councillor representing Thames ward and, alongside his good friend and colleague, the late George Shaw, he worked tirelessly for the residents of Thames View for the next 20 years, standing down from the Council in May 2002. Once elected, Roy soon established himself as a senior figure amongst the political leadership and, as well as serving on a whole host of committees and sub-committees during his tenure, he was also a long-standing Chair of the Council's Cleansing Committee, Technical Services Committee and the B&amp;D Road Safety Council, in addition to being the Chair of the Barking &amp; Dagenham Sports Council.</p> <p>Roy was also one of Barking &amp; Dagenham's two appointed representatives on the East London Waste Authority (ELWA), the statutory Waste Disposal Authority covering B&amp;D, Havering, Newham and Redbridge, and he held the position of ELWA Chair for a number of years before stepping down as a councillor in 2002. As Chair, Roy was instrumental in the development and implementation of ELWA's 25-year Integrated Waste Management Services contract, which is still operating today.</p>	

Perhaps Roy's most long-standing and lasting legacy relates to his role on the Eastbury Community School (formerly Eastbury Comprehensive School) Governing Body. Roy served on the Governing Body for over 50 years, the majority of those as Chair of Governors, and continued in that role right up to his passing - even attending an online Governing Body meeting in his last week. He was highly respected amongst the teaching staff and pupils and has been referred to as "Mr Eastbury" by his colleagues on the Governing Body.

Roy and his wife moved to Rochford, Essex, in the late 2000's. Whilst he retained strong links with Barking and Dagenham – exemplified by his continued role as Chair of Governors at Eastbury Community School – he also became very involved in his new local community and served as a member of Hawkwell Parish Council for twenty-two years, having been co-opted onto the Parish Council in September 2022. He also served as Chairman for three civic years (2019-20; 2020-21 and 2021/22).

In recognition of his standing and contribution to Barking & Dagenham Council, Roy was elected as Mayor for the 1991/92 municipal year and raised many thousands for his chosen charity, the Sick and Needy Appeal. That recognition was extended further in 2003 when Roy was conferred the title of Honorary Freeman of the Borough and yet again in 2017 when he was made an Alderman of the Borough.

On learning of Roy's sad passing, the Borough flag at the Town Hall, Barking was flown at half-mast as a mark of respect and shall be again on the day of his funeral, the details of which are not known at the time of writing this report.

#### **Recommendation(s)**

The Assembly is asked to note the report.