

## **Councillor Edith Macauley MBE - Speech for Mayor-Making**

Madam Mayor, my sincere congratulations to Councillor Marsie Skeete, First Citizen for the London Borough of Merton 2017/18.

I first met Councillor Skeete during one of our canvassing sessions in Colliers Wood and Lavender Fields ward over 5 years ago.

After the end of canvassing, I spoke to Councillor Skeete to find out if she enjoyed speaking to residents and also her views about meeting different people in the community. The feedback was quite positive and she was really fascinated by the issues which residents were raising. I was not surprised that she enjoyed the canvassing session as during our conversation she seemed to be politically motivated and it was quite clear that she had excellent skills dealing with people as in her full time job she was used to meeting and dealing with people of all races.

I was absolutely delighted when she was elected to become Councillor for Longthornton as during the first selection process, I interviewed her for Lower Morden and it became quite obvious that Councillor Skeete was a professional person with exceptional skills.

I have no scintilla or iota of doubt that as a young, vibrant, glamorous, stylish and classy Mayor, she will raise the profile of the borough as the First Citizen and also uphold the dignity of the Mayor's office. I welcome Councillor Skeete to the London Mayor's Association and also as a Member of the chain gang.