

**Speech by Cllr Stephen Alambritis pursuant to a motion of Thanks to Merton Council Retiring Deputy Lieutenant Clare Whelan on Wednesday 16 September 2020**

Madam Mayor,

I wish to convey the sincere thanks and appreciation of this council to Clare Whelan, Deputy Lieutenant for the dedicated manner in which she has served as Representative Deputy Lieutenant for the London Borough of Merton

Clare has enjoyed a remarkable five year tenure from 2015 to 2020 and we too have enjoyed having her here in our borough

As the council leader throughout her tenure I have been so lucky to have Clare next to me at our events

Clare was initially appointed in 2015 as a Deputy Lieutenant in Merton, having previously served for 24 years on the London Borough of Lambeth and there you have proof of a loyal public servant

Clare was the Mayor of Lambeth for the millennium year

Clare was awarded an OBE for services to local government in 2013

She worked at Parliament for 25 years and is now an advisor on the healthcare sector and local government.

Clare represented the Lieutenancy within the borough with distinction

Her unwavering support of local commemoration events such as Armed Forces Day, Remembrance Sunday and Holocaust Memorial Day, among others, has been noticed and indeed admired

She has support of the uniformed youth groups, encouraging their working together and her annual presentation of the Deputy Lieutenant Certificate to outstanding cadets is to be commended

As Merton's Deputy Lieutenant Clare was influential in giving us the privilege of welcoming Her Royal Highness The Queen to the borough during her visit to Haig Homes in St. Helier ward to open an impressive new housing development for veterans.

Clare has also been a dedicated Chair of the London Mayors Association and her enthusiasm for London's Mayors has spread to all our former mayors who take an increasingly active role in that Association and all due to Clare's warmth welcoming approach

We shall all miss her deeply