

Committee: Council

Date: 4 February 2015

Wards: All

Subject: Retirement of the Representative Deputy Lieutenant for Merton

Lead officer: Paul Evans, Assistant Director of Corporate Governance

Lead member: Councillor Stephen Alambritis, Leader of the Council

Contact officer: Julia Regan, Head of Democracy Services,
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Recommendation:

That Council agrees:

- 1) to resolve that the Council places on record its sincere thanks and appreciation to The Right Honourable Sir John Wheeler, JP DL for the dedicated manner in which he has served as Representative Deputy Lieutenant for the London Borough of Merton during the period 1997-2015
 - 2) to agree that formal presentation of a framed certificate to record the Council's thanks be made to The Right Honourable Sir John Wheeler, JP DL will be made at the Council meeting on 15 April 2015.
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1 PURPOSE OF REPORT AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1. The purpose of this report is to give Council the opportunity to acknowledge the service of The Right Honourable Sir John Wheeler, JP DL as Representative Deputy Lieutenant for Merton from 1997-2015 as he reaches retirement on 1 May 2015 by passing a motion of thanks in the terms set out in Appendix 1.

2 DETAILS

- 2.1. The Right Honourable Sir John Wheeler, JP DL was initially appointed in 1989 as a Deputy Lieutenant in Greater London and has lengthy service in that capacity. In Merton, as Representative Deputy Lieutenant since 1997, he is the longest serving Deputy Lieutenant in the 50 year history of the Borough.
- 2.2. Council is recommended to place on record its sincere thanks and appreciation to The Right Honourable Sir John Wheeler, JP DL by passing a motion of thanks in the terms set out in Appendix 1 to this report.
- 2.3. Council is also asked to agree that formal presentation of a framed certificate to record the Council's thanks be made to The Right Honourable Sir John Wheeler, JP DL at the Council meeting on 15 April 2015.

3 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 3.1. Council may choose to agree alternative wording or processes.

4 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN OR PROPOSED

- 4.1. These proposals have been discussed and agreed with each of the political group leaders.

5 TIMETABLE

- 5.1. The criteria and procedures agreed by Council will be implemented with immediate effect.

6 FINANCIAL, RESOURCE AND PROPERTY IMPLICATIONS

Any expenditure associated with the presentation of a framed certificate will be met from existing budgets.

7 LEGAL AND STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS

There are no significant legal implications.

8 HUMAN RIGHTS, EQUALITIES AND COMMUNITY COHESION IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1. None.

9 CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1. None.

10 RISK MANAGEMENT AND HEALTH AND SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1. None

11 APPENDICES – THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENTS ARE TO BE PUBLISHED WITH THIS REPORT AND FORM PART OF THE REPORT

Appendix 1 – wording for framed certificate

12 BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

Appendix 1 – wording for framed certificate

(Borough Crest)
London Borough of Merton

Motion of Thanks

The Rt Hon Sir John Wheeler, JP, DL

Resolved unanimously: that the Council places on record its sincere thanks and appreciation to The Rt Hon Sir John Wheeler, JP, DL for the dedicated manner in which he has served as Representative Deputy Lieutenant for the London Borough of Merton during the period 1997-2015.

Sir John was initially appointed in 1989 as a Deputy Lieutenant in Greater London and has lengthy service in that capacity but in Merton, as Representative Deputy Lieutenant since 1997, he is the longest serving Deputy Lieutenant in the 50 year history of the Borough. He has accomplished that role with a quiet but determined dignity, fitting of his Office. Sir John has always believed in the principle of public service and has taken an especial pleasure from supporting the Mayors, Leaders and Councillors, in their work for the community in Merton over the last 18 years.

As residents in Wimbledon Park, Sir John and Lady Wheeler and their family have lived in the Borough for many years. Sir John has actively engaged himself in the affairs of the local community, where he is recognised for his contribution. This has led him to meet many Merton residents engaged in volunteering. Sir John has taken special pleasure in gaining recognition for the volunteer organisations in Merton and in particular supporting applications for the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service.

One role of the Representative Deputy Lieutenant has been to nominate residents for attendance at Buckingham Palace Garden Parties in recognition of their contribution to the life of the Borough and to contribute to the review of nominations to national honours. Many people in Merton have benefited from his direct engagement and on one occasion Sir John promoted a mini-Garden Party at Southside House, Wimbledon in the presence of HRH Prince Richard, Duke of Gloucester, to expand the number of residents able to attend such events.

Over his years of service Sir John has welcomed many members of the Royal family to Merton, including HRH The Prince of Wales and HRH Prince William, Duke of Cambridge. In 2012 Sir John played an instrumental role in supporting the Borough and the Lieutenancy Office when Her Majesty The Queen and HRH The Duke of Edinburgh visited South London during the Diamond Jubilee celebrations and took lunch at St. Mark's Academy, Mitcham.

Sir John remains in service to Her Majesty as a member of the Privy Council.

Mayor

(Seal)

Chief Executive

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