

## **COUNCIL – 2ND SEPTEMBER 2019**

### **ITEM 4.2     LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

#### **RETIREMENT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

Madam Mayor, I would like to mention that this is the last Council meeting for our Chief Executive, Geoff Parker, who is retiring from local government. Geoff has been the Chief Executive for 9 years and has pioneered remarkable change and his leadership has made a significant and positive impact on the wellbeing of the residents of the Borough.

He has been an incredibly strong advocate for customer service at the Council and his support was critical to the Council securing the Government's Customer Service Excellence standard across the whole organisation in 2015. The organisation has consistently retained the award thanks to his drive and commitment to high customer service standards.

His work to build relationships in the borough has been key to the Council's success, perhaps highlighted by our close ties with Loughborough University.

Please join me in wishing Geoff a long and happy retirement.

#### **COUNCILLOR ERIC VARDY**

Madam Mayor, I would like to thank Eric Vardy for his service in a number of senior roles at the Council over the years. Please join me in wishing Eric, and his wife to be, Julia, well. He will be missed.

#### **FOOD SAFETY TEAM AWARD**

Madam Mayor, I am also delighted to announce that recently the Council's Regulatory Services won the Best Small Business Friendly Regulatory Approach at the Federation of Small Businesses' (FSB) Leicestershire and Rutland Local Authority Small Business Friendly Awards.

The award celebrated the Council's business coaching project, created and delivered by the Food Safety Team. The initiative provides new food businesses in Charnwood with advice, information and training to help them achieve the highest possible food hygiene rating when opening. Businesses achieving the top ratings are then promoted on the Council's Food Safety Facebook site.

I hope you will join me in congratulating the Food Safety Team for their excellent work in supporting small businesses in Charnwood.

#### **ARMED FORCES COVENANT EMPLOYER SCHEME**

Madam Mayor, I am proud to find out that the Council recently became one of the first local authorities in the East Midlands to receive a gold award for its support for the Armed Forces Community along with our neighbours Rushcliffe Borough

Council. The Armed Forces Employer Scheme gold award is the highest badge of honour for organisations who have signed the Armed Forces Covenant.

Congratulations to everyone involved in achieving this award and we will continue to do everything we can to support the armed forces community, including current and former service personnel.

### MEMBER CHAMPION ROLES

Lastly, I would like to announce that I have appointed the following Member Champion roles with terms of office running from 2019-2023:

- Tree Planting – Councillor Howe
- Loneliness – Councillor Parton
- Climate Change – Councillor Needham

Member champions are Councillors who act as an advocate or spokesperson for a specific area of the Councils business and activities.