London Borough of Bexley

News Release

For Immediate Release

17 December 2015 / PR 6265

CHRISTMAS COMES TO BEXLEY

The Council chamber became a Santa's grotto this week (16 December) when Bexley Borough Commander, Jeff Boothe handed over gifts to the Mayor of Bexley, Cllr Sybil Camsey as part of the Met Police Commissioner's Christmas Tree Project.

The project ensures that children in need receive a special Christmas present. The Mayor received the gifts on behalf of children and young people in Bexley.

The Police Christmas Tree Project asked people to make a local child's Christmas by purchasing and donating a new toy or gift for those local children who may otherwise receive little or nothing this Christmas.

PC Richard Bradford co-ordinated the Bexley effort which meant not only gathering and checking the gifts but wrapping most of the 700 presents that were delivered to the Council ready for dispatch.

Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Cllr Philip Read also took part in the gift handover. He said; "Local people have been incredibly generous. I'd like to thank them all for the gifts that will go looked after children and children in need across the borough and I'd also like to thank PC Bradford for arranging the local appeal and for his magnificent wrapping skills.

Christmas can be a difficult time. I hope these gifts will go some way to making the season a little easier for those who need a little extra help and support."

The local appeal supported the Met's Christmas Tree Project, which is spreading its cheer across London, with trees being lit up by officers outside police stations and in other public places in all of London's 32 boroughs to ensure more children in need than ever have a present delivered to them in time for Christmas Day.

PC Richard Bradford; "We were delighted and incredulous at the amount of presents that were kindly donated from people across the borough from members of the public to local businesses and charities. Everyone donated generously and we are really touched. We wrapped 650 presents which are going to be distributed to children who, otherwise, may have not received very much this Christmas. A heartfelt thank you to everyone who took part and assisted us with the Christmas tree project."

Residents were encouraged to get behind the campaign and give a gift by taking a tagged ribbon from the Christmas tree at Bexleyheath Police Station, and follow the instructions on the tag.

The presents will be delivered across the borough from this week.

More information on the appeal is available at www.met.police.uk/christmastree

ENDS

Please contact: Jane Parson on 020 3045 4868
communications@bexley.gov.uk