

<b>Bath &amp; North East Somerset Council</b>		
MEETING:	<b>Council</b>	
MEETING DATE:	<b>18 November 2021</b>	
TITLE:	<b>Race Panel Update</b>	
WARD:	All	
<b>AN OPEN PUBLIC ITEM</b>		
<b>List of attachments to this report:</b>		

## **1 THE ISSUE**

- 1.1 The B&NES Race Panel was set up by Council in July 2020 following the murder of George Floyd in the USA. The short report is to provide an update on the panel and the work undertaken over the past sixteen months.

## **2 RECOMMENDATION**

Council is asked to;

- 2.1 note the update report
- 2.2 approve that the panel should continue to run for a further period to 30 April 2023.

## **3 THE REPORT**

- 3.1 The B&NES Race Panel was set up by Council in July 2020 following the murder of George Floyd in the USA as public outrage was felt across the world about continued racial discrimination. The Panel was set up by the then Leader of the Council and panel members were selected through an open self-nomination process, considering a variety of criteria including lived experience, and specific and provable interest in race equality.
- 3.2 The collective aim of the Panel is to build a fairer community and champion those living, working, and residing in B&NES who experience marginalisation, inequalities, and under-representation due to their ethnic background. The Panel members have strong links into the community and part of the Panel's role has been promoting work, walks and talks across the area on slavery about race by

collaborating with local organisations and communities. More details can be found here.

### 3.3 During the pilot year, the Panel has:

- kept the debate on race discrimination alive
- questioned if the language used corporately about race is appropriate, including a topic still to be fully concluded, on the language and commonly used terminology such as BME or BAME. These phrases are no longer considered acceptable and feedback has been provided to the council's equality, diversity and inclusion steering committee.
- worked to highlight contributions of black residents and visitors of Bath, and those involved in the anti-slavery movement.
- promoted of greater awareness of key local people of colour or who have advocated for the abolishment of slavery in the city of bath's history.
- consulted on improving communications around public health and local black and brown communities

3.4 The Panel was set up as a one-year pilot and approval to proceed for a further term of office until 30 April 2023 is requested.

## **4 STATUTORY CONSIDERATIONS**

4.1 The B&NES Race Panel supports the Council to ensure that it's statutory obligations with regards to the Equality Act 2010 are fulfilled.

## **5 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCE, PROPERTY, PEOPLE)**

5.1 The Panel is jointly chaired by the Cabinet Member for Children, Young People, Communities and Culture, along with another Panel member. It does not incur any costs as the members are voluntary and meet virtually, and little resource has been used to date bar administration support to coordinate the Panel. The meetings average as monthly, considering matters of interest to the members, rather than an agenda led by the Council.

## **6 RISK MANAGEMENT**

6.1 None

## **7 EQUALITIES**

7.1 The Panel forms a key visible part of improving race equality across B&NES.

## **8 CLIMATE CHANGE**

8.1 Panel meetings are held virtually to minimise travel.

## **9 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

9.1 None

## 10 CONSULTATION

10.1 This report has been cleared by the Chief Executive, S151 Officer and Monitoring Officer.

<b>Contact person</b>	Cherry Bennett, Director of People & Policy 01225 477203
<b>Background papers</b>	
<b>Please contact the report author if you need to access this report in an alternative format</b>	