

Meeting of:	Cabinet
Date of Meeting:	Thursday, 29 September 2022
Relevant Scrutiny Committee:	Learning and Culture
Report Title:	Statues, Monuments, Street Names and Building Names - Review Panel - Update
Purpose of Report:	To seek Cabinet approval to update the membership of the review panel, revise the Terms of Reference following the 2022 Local County Borough Council Elections and request approval for a second approach to Town and Community Councils to submit any further views to inform the panel's work in addition to inviting any views from the wider community via the Council's social media channels.
Report Owner:	Cabinet Member for Community Engagement, Equalities and Regulatory Services
Responsible Officer:	Director of Corporate Resources
Elected Member and Officer Consultation:	Cabinet Members Member Champions for Equalities and Diversity Group Leaders
Policy Framework:	This is a matter for Executive decision by Cabinet.
<p>Executive Summary:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The last meeting of the review panel took place on 16th September, 2021 and was then followed by the Local Government Elections which took place on 5th May, 2022. As a result of those elections and changes in elected Members and to reflect the new Cabinet portfolios and approach, it is necessary to update the membership and Terms of Reference for the panel accordingly. Cabinet is also asked to note the work done to date by the review panel and other south-east Wales Local Authorities on the matter and to approve a further reminder to be sent to Town and Community Councils to submit any further views to inform the panel's work in addition to inviting any views from the wider community via the Council's social media channels. 	

Recommendations

- 1.** It is recommended that Cabinet approves the changes proposed to the review panel membership and the previous Terms of Reference following the Local Government Elections which took place on 5th May, 2022 as described in this report and Appendix A.
- 2.** It is recommended that, subject to recommendation 1, Democratic Services contact the Leaders of the Council's political groups to request one nomination each to join the review panel.
- 3.** It is recommended that Cabinet notes the work completed to date by the review panel.
- 4.** It is recommended that Cabinet considers and authorises a new call to Town and Community Councils and members of the public to submit matters for consideration by the panel prior to any recommendations being made to Cabinet.

Reasons for Recommendations

- 1.** To update the membership of the review panel to reflect recent changes of elected Members and to reflect those changes in the panel's Terms of Reference.
- 2.** To ascertain nominations from the political groups and update the review panel membership.
- 3.** To note the work carried out by the review panel to date.
- 4.** To request any representations from Town & Community Councils and to publish a public call for representations.

1. Background

- 1.1** In November 2020, Cabinet approved proposals to establish a review of statues, monuments, street names and building names to be undertaken both from an historic perspective (to ascertain any causes for concern) but also inviting consideration for future recognition of individuals or events that celebrate diversity (Minute 356 refers).
- 1.2** The panel met for an introductory meeting in March 2021 to discuss the background to the review and framing a public call for representations for discussion. This was then expanded upon at further meetings, as well as discussing the Culture, Welsh Language and Communications Committee Report '*Set in stone? A report on who gets remembered in public spaces*', developing a forward work programme and looking at examples of work carried out by other south-east Wales Local Authorities.
- 1.3** The March 2021 report to Cabinet also sought approval to undertake a review and to engage the Vale of Glamorgan Town and Community Councils and its communities in this important area.

- 1.4** The Local County Borough Council Elections then took place on 5th May, 2022 and this has had an effect on the membership of the Panel. Changes in the Cabinet portfolios and emphasis placed on community engagement also afford an opportunity to review and update to the membership and Terms of Reference for the panel.
- 1.5** This report sets out the changes proposed to the Terms of Reference to the membership of the review panel and have been reflected in the Review Panel Updated Terms of Reference (Appendix A) and seeks approval for the same.

2. Key Issues for Consideration

- 2.1** Following the Local County Borough Council Elections which took place on 5th May, 2022 it is now appropriate to update the review panel membership and update the Terms of Reference for the review panel's composition.
- 2.2** In the current Terms of Reference, the membership is agreed as follows:-
- Member Equality Champion
 - Member LGBT Champion
 - One Member from each of the Council's Political Groups (as nominated by Political Group Leaders)
 - An officer from the Council's Strategic Leadership Team
 - One representative from the Vale of Glamorgan Stand Up to Racism group
- 2.3** Within the new Administration, the roles of Member Equality Champion and Member LBGT Champion are now to be carried out by one Member. In addition, a new Member role as Diversity Champion has been created. It is proposed that the Terms of Reference therefore be updated as follows:-
- Cabinet Member for Community Engagement, Equalities and Regulatory Services (as chairperson)
 - Member Equality Champion / LGBT Champion
 - Member Diversity Champion
 - One Member from each of the Council's Political Groups (as nominated by Political Group Leaders)
 - An officer from the Council's Strategic Leadership Team
 - One representative from the Vale of Glamorgan Stand Up to Racism group.
- 2.4** Since the initial report was considered by Cabinet in November 2020, a copy of that report had been sent to all Town & Community Councils with a request to submit any views to inform the panel's work in addition to inviting any views from the wider community via the Council's social media channels. Following the Local Government Elections in May 2022 and as work has continued since that call was made and progress made in a number of areas, Cabinet is asked to approve a second such request to take into account any changes over time since the first call was made.

- 2.5 The previous review panel also reviewed the work carried out by the other nine south-east Wales Local Authorities on the matter and continue to do so as they report their latest positions.
- 2.6 Recommendations within the March 2021 'Set in Stone' report suggest that the Welsh Government should leave ultimate authority for decisions relating to contentious statues, monuments or commemorations with local authorities and communities.
- 2.7 However, there are processes and principles which should apply which the Welsh Government should provide leadership and guidance to local authorities and other public bodies on, and that guidance is still awaited.
- 2.8 Until then, the review panel will continue to engage with Town and Community Councils and the wider public to gather information, consider actions and advise the Cabinet Member as chair to report to Cabinet any matters that are felt necessary for consideration, as and when required.

3. How do proposals evidence the Five Ways of Working and contribute to our Well-being Objectives?

- 3.1 The proposals contained in this report are consistent with the Council's Strategic Equality Plan objectives which are framed in the context of the Council's four new well-being objectives. These objectives complement each other and will collectively deliver the Council's local well-being outcomes and the seven national well-being goals.

4. Climate Change and Nature Implications

- 4.1 There are no direct implications arising from this report.

5. Resources and Legal Considerations

Financial

- 5.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from this report. The findings of the review panel's work may require financial resources to deliver and consideration of any implications will be given by Cabinet in due course.

Employment

- 5.2 There are no direct employment implications arising from this report.

Legal (Including Equalities)

- 5.3 There are no direct legal implications arising from this report. The Council has a statutory duty to comply with the Equalities Act (2010) and specific duties to Wales as described in the Strategic Equality Plan.

- 5.4** In parallel with the work described in the report above, work to develop an Equalities Impact Assessment will be undertaken. This will be an important basis for considering the findings of any representations received, in conjunction with the equalities information contained in the Strategic Equality Plan.

6. Background Papers

[Statement from the Leader of the Council, June 2020](#)

[Statement from the First Minister, July 2020](#)

[Vale of Glamorgan Council Strategic Equality Plan 2020-2024](#)

[Review of Statues Monuments Street Names and Building Names](#) (Cabinet, 2nd November, 2020)

[Review of Street Names ToR \(valeofglamorgan.gov.uk\)](#) (Cabinet, 25th January, 2021)

[Review of Statues, Monuments, Street Names and Building Names – Review Panel Terms of Reference](#) (Cabinet, 22nd March, 2021)

Appendix A

Vale of Glamorgan Council Review of Statues, Monuments, Street Names and Building Names

Review Panel - Updated Terms of Reference

Purpose & Role

The panel was established by the Council's Cabinet to undertake work to further the Vale of Glamorgan Council's review of statues, monuments, street names and building names within the Vale of Glamorgan.

The panel will receive representations from town & community councils, the wider public, community/interest groups and review evidence relating to statues, monuments, street names and building names within the county.

The panel will also consider any emerging findings from the Welsh Government's audit of public monuments, street and building names associated with the history of black communities in Wales.

The purpose of the panel's work is to review these assets from an historic perspective (to ascertain any causes for concern) whilst also inviting consideration for future recognition of individuals or events that celebrate diversity.

Diversity in the context of the panel's work means ensuring all residents of the Vale of Glamorgan feel recognised no matter their background. For example, this will include race and Welsh language/cultural considerations.

The panel will advise the Cabinet Member for Community Engagement, Equalities and Regulatory Services in the development of proposals for consideration by the Council's Cabinet. For example, upon receipt of representations, the panel will review the findings and make recommendations to the Council's Cabinet to determine the action that should be taken.

Actions that could be progressed will include removal or retention with additional information/education. The actions proposed will be informed by the representations made to the panel.

Membership

The membership of the panel is as follows and may be changed by agreement of the Cabinet:

- Cabinet Member for Community Engagement, Equalities and Regulatory Services
- Member Equality Champion / LGBT Champion
- Member Diversity Champion
- One Member from each of the Council's Political Groups (as nominated by Political Group Leaders)
- An officer from the Council's Strategic Leadership Team
- One representative from the Vale of Glamorgan Stand Up to Racism

Appendix A

The chairperson will be the Cabinet Member for Community Engagement, Equalities and Regulatory Services as the Cabinet's relevant portfolio holder. Any further revisions to the panel's composition may be made by Cabinet.

Additional attendees at panel meetings will be agreed by the Chair, for example, in inviting representatives of those making representations, or to provide the panel with specialist knowledge or advice.

It is for Vale of Glamorgan Stand Up to Racism to determine their representative to sit on the panel.

It is for the Leader of each Political Group to nominate one representative to sit on the panel.

The panel will be supported by Council officers for administration and professional advisory purposes.

Accountability

The panel will make recommendations to the Council's Cabinet for determination. Reports will be referred to Scrutiny Committee (Learning & Culture) as part of the decision-making process.

Working Methods

The panel initially received representations invited from Town & Community Councils at the end of January 2021. As work has continued since that call was made and progress made in a number of areas, Cabinet is asked to approve a second such request in October 2022 to take into account any changes over time since the first call was made.

All Town & Community Councils will be invited to identify commemorations of historical figures which may be the cause of concern, views on how these concerns should be addressed, and to identify people from underrepresented backgrounds to commemorate in the future.

All Town & Community councils have received a copy of the report from Cabinet setting out the approach to the review and a further reminder will be sent.

In parallel, members of the public and community/interest groups will be invited to make representations via an online form.

The findings of the Welsh Government audit will also be reviewed by the panel.

The 'call for representations' will remain active for an initial period of six months following October 2022 at which point, Cabinet will review the operation of the panel.

Information received from the representations and other sources of research/evidence will be compiled by Council officers and shared on a confidential basis with the panel for their consideration.

The meetings of the panel will be minuted, with those minutes appended to any subsequent Cabinet reports to inform decision making and scrutiny processes.

Appendix A

Meetings

Further meetings of the panel will be convened as soon as possible once nominations for members have been received from each of the political groups within the Vale of Glamorgan Council.

A meeting of the panel will be convened subsequently to review the representations received to date.

Further meetings will be agreed with the panel as required.

All meetings will be held using Microsoft Teams.

Review

The Cabinet will review the operation of the panel at the end of March 2023 to determine how long the panel should continue for, and periodically thereafter.