

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL

LEARNING AND CULTURE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE: 11TH FEBRUARY, 2021

REFERENCE FROM CABINET: 25TH JANUARY, 2021

“C454 REVIEW OF STATUES, MONUMENTS, STREET NAMES AND BUILDING NAMES - REVIEW PANEL TERMS OF REFERENCE (EX/PR) (SCRUTINY – LEARNING AND CULTURE) –

The report set out the draft terms of reference for the Review Panel to assist in the review of statues, monuments, street names and building names in the Vale of Glamorgan, in light of the Black Lives Matter movement as previously requested by Cabinet in November 2020.

The Panel that would be established would review the representations received and would be made up of Elected Members and external experts. The recommendations of the Panel would be reported to Cabinet for consideration in due course.

The Leader noted with regards to the Membership of the Panel that one nomination had been received for a representative from the Vale of Glamorgan Stand Up to Racism and that the candidate to represent the local history societies may be chosen collectively by those societies.

The Deputy Leader noted that the Panel would be an advisory panel and would listen to towns and communities to ascertain what they felt was the correct way forward. Concern had been expressed previously about inconvenience and cost implications for any change to street names, and the Panel would be looking for the correct solutions to such issues as guided by the towns and communities affected. The Panel would need to work together to find out how those towns and communities wanted to be reflected and ensure that those who were not currently represented within communities were represented in future.

The Leader also noted that as well as being referred to Scrutiny Committee, the matter was also being considered by the Community Liaison Committee where Town and Community Councils came together.

Councillor Gray added that the Cabinet remained open-minded about the way forward and noted that until there was understanding as to what communities felt or wanted to happen, it was not possible to make changes which had to be undertaken in partnership in order to move forward.

This was a matter for Executive decision.

Cabinet, having considered the report and all the issues and implications contained therein

RESOLVED –

- (1) T H A T the report be noted.
- (2) T H A T the Terms of Reference for the Review Panel as described within the report and attached at Appendix A to the report be endorsed.
- (3) T H A T the report be referred to the Learning and Culture Scrutiny Committee for consideration and to provide a further update on the work of the review.

Reasons for decisions

- (1) Having regard to the contents of the report and discussions at the meeting.
- (2) To enable the Review Panel to be established.
- (3) To provide the Learning and Culture Scrutiny Committee with an update as matters progress.”

Attached as Appendix – Report to Cabinet: 25th January, 2021

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| Meeting of: | Cabinet |
| Date of Meeting: | Monday, 25 January 2021 |
| Relevant Scrutiny Committee: | Learning and Culture |
| Report Title: | Review of Statues, Monuments, Street Names and Building Names - Review Panel Terms of Reference |
| Purpose of Report: | To seek Cabinet approval for the terms of reference for the review panel to undertake the work to review statues, monuments, street names and building names to ensure they are representative of local people's values and those of a modern, inclusive Council. |
| Report Owner: | Leader of the Council |
| Responsible Officer: | Head of Policy & Business Transformation |
| Elected Member and Officer Consultation: | Cabinet Member Champion for Equalities Strategic Leadership Team |
| Policy Framework: | This is a matter for Executive decision by Cabinet. |
| <p>Executive Summary:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This report sets out the draft terms of reference for the review panel to assist in the review of statues, monuments, street names and building names in the Vale of Glamorgan, in light of the Black Lives Matter movement as previously requested by Cabinet in November 2020. • The panel that will be established will review the representations received and will be made up of elected members and external experts. The recommendations of the panel would be reported to Cabinet for consideration in due course. | |

Recommendations

1. It is recommended that Cabinet notes the contents of this report.
2. It is recommended that Cabinet endorses the terms of reference for the review panel as described in this report and at Appendix A.
3. It is recommended that this report is referred to Scrutiny Committee (Learning and Culture) for consideration and to provide a further update on the work of the review.

Reasons for Recommendations

1. To provide Cabinet with an overview of the work being undertaken in this area.
2. To enable the review panel to be established.
3. To provide Scrutiny Committee (Learning and Culture) with an update as matters are progressing.

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 previous report to Cabinet sought approval to undertake the review and to engage our communities in this important area.
- 1.3 The review will be undertaken by a panel and Cabinet requested that the terms of reference for the panel be developed and reported for consideration and approval prior to the panel being convened. This report sets out the terms of reference and seeks approval for the same.

2. Key Issues for Consideration

- 2.1 Appendix A sets out the draft terms of reference for the review panel.

- 2.2 The terms of reference sets out for the panel its:

Purpose and role.

Membership - panel composition, including the ability for the Leader of the Council to supplement this membership as appropriate.

Accountability - how the panel will make recommendations to Cabinet and the involvement of Scrutiny Committee (Learning & Culture).

Working methods - the approach to engaging with town & community councils and the community more widely; how the panel will undertake their business.

Meetings - the frequency of meetings and format.

Review - indicating an initial review of the operation of the panel by Cabinet in June 2021.

- 2.3 It is recommended that Cabinet endorses the terms of reference to enable the panel to be convened and work to progress.
- 2.4 It is also recommended that this report be referred to Scrutiny Committee (Learning and Culture) to provide a further update on the work progressing in this area.
- 2.5 Since the report was considered by Cabinet in November 2020, a copy of that report has been sent to all Town & Community Councils. A further reminder will be sent to these organisations 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.

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. Resources and Legal Considerations

Financial

- 4.1 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

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

Legal (Including Equalities)

- 4.3 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.
- 4.4 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.

5. Background Papers

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

[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](#)

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

Review Panel Terms of Reference

Purpose & Role

The panel is to be 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.

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.

Recommendations, and subsequently actions that could be progressed will include removal or retention with additional information/education. The recommendations put forward by the panel will be informed by the representations made to the panel.

Membership

The membership of the panel is as follows and may be supplemented by agreement of the Leader of the Council:

- Leader (Chair)
- Deputy Leader of the Council
- Member Equality Champion
- Member LGBT Champion
- An officer from the Council's Strategic Leadership Team
- One representative from the Vale of Glamorgan Stand Up to Racism
- One representative from local history societies

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 the Leader to determine the local history societies that will be approached and for Vale of Glamorgan Stand Up to Racism to determine their 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 will initially receive representations invited from Town & Community Councils by the end of January 2021.

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 January 2021.

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 January 2021 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.

Meetings

An initial meeting of the panel will be convened in February 2021 to discuss the terms of reference and scope of the work involved.

A meeting of the panel will be convened in March 2021 to review the representations received to date.

Further meetings will be agreed with the panel as required.

Initially all meetings will be held using Microsoft Teams.

Review

The Cabinet will initially review the operation of the panel at the end of June 2021 to determine how long the panel should continue for, and periodically thereafter.