

Bolton Council

Report to: Executive Member Strategy and External Relationships

Date: Wednesday 21st January 2009

Report of: Chief Executive

Report No:

Contact Officer: Michael Kane

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Report Title: **An update on Bolton Racial Equality Council**

**Confidential /
Non Confidential:**
(delete as approp)

(Non-Confidential) This report does **not** contain information which warrants its consideration in the absence of the press or members of the public

Purpose:

The purpose of the report is to provide an update on the progress being made by BREC as requested by the Executive Member at his meeting on the 9th July 2008.

Recommendations:

The Executive Member is requested to:

- a) Approve the remainder of the funding for the Service Level Agreement for 2008/09
- b) Agree that officers continue to work with the group around their future role within Bolton.

Decision:

Background Doc(s):

Revenue Funded Organisations – Service Level Agreements and Financial Assistance to Groups (Executive Member Culture and Community Services, 31st March 2008)

BREC Service Level Agreement – Arrangements for 2008/09 (Executive Member Strategy and External Relationships, 9th July)

(for use on Exec Rep)

Signed:

Leader / Executive Member

Monitoring Officer

Date:

Summary:

This report provides an update on Bolton Racial Equality Council's restructuring activity over the last 6 months as requested by the Executive Member.

During June 2008, the organisation undertook a consultation exercise with its stakeholders and partners to help them develop a future vision. The group have since agreed a new name, new objectives and a new strategy and action plan at an Extraordinary General Meeting held in October 2008. They have initiated the legal steps to reconstitute themselves as Bolton Equalities Centre (BEC).

1. Purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to provide an update on the progress being made by BREC as requested by the Executive Member at his meeting on the 9th July 2008.

2. Background

- 2.1 As the Executive Member will be aware, the funding for the BREC SLA 2008/09 was agreed at the Executive Member for Culture and Community Services Meeting in March 2008, with the proviso that further payments would be subject to the group making satisfactory progress with changes that were being outlined in the governance and operation of the group.
- 2.2 Subsequently, the Executive Member Strategy and External Relationships who now has the responsibility for overseeing the grants and SLAs with the voluntary sector requested that BREC provide updates on the groups developments. Section 3 below outlines the progress that BREC have reported to Bolton Council officers.

3 Bolton Racial Equality Council (who will in the future be known as the Bolton Equalities Centre).

- 3.1 The section that follows is based on information that BREC have made available to council officers and is therefore an abridged version of this update and is therefore not a fully objective analysis of the state of the group.
- 3.2 During June 2008, BREC as was, completed a consultation exercise where 67 people who were either existing stakeholders/partners or future stakeholders/partners for BREC attended an event to discuss the potential future for the organisation in Bolton.
- 3.3 The consultation event helped shape a new vision for the organisation that includes the following key elements:
- Continued focus on race relations including working with new and emerging communities and an ongoing commitment to tackling discrimination.
 - Broadening the remit – to have a focus on all equalities issues (though key focus still race) working in partnership with service providers to address discrimination.
 - Helping to build community cohesion in Bolton.
- 3.4 To achieve this vision, BREC have indicated that they will need to:
- Develop their relationships with organisations working across the equalities agenda in Bolton.
 - Develop BREC staff through training, development and recruitment as necessary.
 - Change the legal structure of the organisation – following an Extraordinary General Meeting in October 2008, BREC are taking the steps to become a Private Company Limited by Guarantee, retaining their Charitable Status.
 - Deliver organisational change through a new 5 year Strategic Development Plan and Action Plan. The strategy outlines how BREC believe they can become major contributors to community cohesion, and play a key role in eliminating inequality and discrimination
- 3.5 To deliver their strategy, BREC perceive several phases to their work in the next few years:
- Moving forward 2008/09- essentially this refers to the points raised in sections s 3.2 – 3.4. of this report.

- Moving Forward 2010 -2013 outlines where BREC have intend they will have further developed their expertise across a whole range of equality issues and will be operating closely in line with aims of the Equalities and Human Rights Commission.

4. Bolton Council's continued involvement with BREC

- 4.1 BREC continue to deliver the projects referred to in their SLA with us and, as such, the council need to pay the group for this work. To date, quarter 1 and quarter 2 funds only have been released.
- 4.2 Council officers will continue to work closely with BREC to ensure that any future work that they do fits with the priorities for Bolton. We will also ensure that as BREC look to change for the future that this is done in a manner that does not inappropriately impact on other key delivery organisations in Bolton. We will further ensure that the work delivered by BREC on our behalf is providing good value for money.

5 Recommendation

- 5.1 The Executive Member for Strategy and External Relationships is requested to
 - c) Approve the remainder of the funding for the Service Level Agreement for 2008/09
 - d) Agree that officers continue to work with the group around their future role within Bolton.