

Report to: Executive Member Strategy and
External Relationships

Date: 9th July 2008

Report of: Chief Executive

Report No:

Contact Officer: Michael Kane

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Report Title: **Bolton Racial Equality Council (BREC) – Service Level Agreement
arrangements for 2008/09**

**Confidential /
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 this report is to update the Executive Member on the issues
associated with the Service Level Agreement (SLA) for BREC during
2008/09. The report also requests that the Executive Member agrees a
process to manage the BREC SLA for the remainder of 2008/09 on a
quarterly basis.

Recommendations:

The Executive Member for Strategy and External Relations is requested to:

- (i). Approve the release of the 2nd quarter funding for BREC in relation to the
activities agreed in their SLA for 2008/09.
- (ii) Agree to delegate authority to the Chief Executive to authorise the
financial commitment to BREC for the remainder of 2008/09, up to the
£42,380 agreed.
- (iii) Agree that officers continue the dialogue with BREC regarding their role
within Bolton.

Decision:

Background Doc(s):

Executive Member for Culture and Community Services, 31st March 2008,
Revenue Funded Organisations – Service Level Agreements and financial
assistance to groups

Signed:

Leader / Executive Member

Monitoring Officer

Date:

Summary:

The Executive Member for Culture and Community Services approved a number of Service Level Agreements for 2008/09 for revenue funded organisations at his meeting on the 31st March 2008. Bolton Racial Equality Council (BREC) are within this group but as an organisation are proposing some change. Consequently, the Executive Member agreed to payment of the first quarter of the monies associated with the BREC SLA for 2008/09 whilst further discussions were undertaken with the group as to their future role.

These discussions are ongoing and the Executive Member is requested to approve the release of the second quarter's monies for BREC and to authorise the Chief Executive to have delegated authority to oversee the management and payment of the remainder of the grant in line with their SLA as discussions with BREC continue.

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to update the Executive Member on the issues associated with the Service Level Agreement (SLA) for BREC during 2008/09. The report also requests that the Executive Member agrees a process to manage the BREC SLA for the remainder of 2008/09 on a quarterly basis. .

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Executive Member will be aware that the Council has one-year Service Level Agreements (SLAs) with ten revenue funded organisations that reflect the service provided by each organisation and the funding granted by the Council. The ten groups are listed below together with the grant aid approved for the financial year 2008/2009 by the then Executive Member for Culture and Community Services:

Group	2008/09 £
Bolton Council for Voluntary Service (CVS)	135,338
Bolton District Victim Support & Witness Service	29,938
Octagon Theatre Trust	139,744
Bolton Citizens' Advice Bureau (CAB)	166,170
Bolton Community Transport and Furniture Services	22,379
Relate	14,303
Bolton Shopmobility	23,275
Bolton Unemployed Workers Advice Centre	11,546
Bolton Racial Equality Council (BREC)	42,380* first quarter payment only
Bolton Volunteer Centre	54,576

3. Bolton Racial Equality Council

- 3.1 The Executive Member for Culture and Community Services approved grant aid for BREC in principle for 2008/09 but agreed to pay out the first quarter payment only while discussions took place regarding the future role of this group. .
- 3.2 Since then, BREC have met with Council officers and have been undertaking some consultation with other partners in the Borough as they want to align their purposes with the new Equalities and Human Rights Commission. Consequently, BREC are testing out whether their remit could be broadened from having a principle focus on race equality to a broader diversity and equalities agenda.
- 3.3 As the discussions to the future of BREC are ongoing, they are also still delivering the content of the agreed SLA with Bolton Council. Consequently, there is a need to seek the Executive Member's approval to release second quarter funding and to grant the Chief Executive delegated authority to manage this funding and SLA on a quarterly basis for the remainder of the 2008/09 financial year whilst the future position is established, and, subject to BREC continuing to deliver the key requirements of the service specification. The Executive Member is requested to approve up to £42,380 as the level of funding for 2008/09.

4. RECOMMENDATION

- 4.1 The Executive Member Strategy and External Relationships is requested to:

i). Approve the release of the 2nd quarter funding for BREC in relation to the activities agreed in their SLA for 2008/09.

(ii) Agree to delegate authority to the Chief Executive to authorise the financial commitment to BREC for the remainder of 2008/09, up to the £42,380 agreed.

(iii) Agree that officers continue the dialogue with BREC regarding their role within Bolton.