

# APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO THE COMMUNITY REPRESENTATION TASKFORCE

## Role description and person specification

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### Background

In 2020, the Black Lives Matter Movement highlighted the ongoing racial injustice and discrimination experienced by people across the world and here in the UK, as well as bringing a renewed focus on the appropriateness of public commemorations of people and events from history, who and what they represent, and their relevance to today. In response to this, Stroud District Council was one of the first of many councils in the UK to commit to a review of monuments, buildings and street names in the district, to ensure they represent our area's inclusive values.

A Review Panel including community representatives, historians, academics, councillors, and officers of the Council was established to undertake the review and make recommendations.

The review, including a public consultation, launched in July 2021 and specifically sought views on the Blackboy Clock and Statue, an object made at the height of the Transatlantic slave trade, and Blackboy House, the building it is situated on. The review also asked for suggestions as to what else needed reviewing in the district, alongside what people think should be commemorated in the future.

### Role of a Taskforce Member

Following the review, the Review Panel made eight recommendations which are set out in [this report](#). One of the recommendations was for the Council to establish a taskforce to:

- Contextualise the statue and oversee the installation of an Information Plaque to be situated outside Blackboy House;
- Develop a community project for the commemoration of an individual, group of individuals or event suggested in the survey responses; and
- Consider how the Anti-Slavery Arch, its history and Stroud's involvement in the Transatlantic slave trade and the abolition of slavery can form part of the community project.

Members are appointed on a personal basis according to their personal knowledge, skills or experience, and the Taskforce should include up to seven Community Representatives.

Members of the community and residents who live close to Blackboy House are encouraged to apply.

### Key tasks

- Strive to attend all meetings of the Taskforce and be an active participant in discussions and activity.

- Work collaboratively with other Taskforce members to oversee the implementation of the Information Plaque and the development and completion of the community project.
- Contribute suggestions and ideas to achieve the objectives outlined above.
- Fulfil any tasks or responsibilities assigned at the Taskforce meetings and report back progress.
- Follow appropriate standards of behaviour in line with the Terms of Reference of the Taskforce.
- Help to build good relationships in the spirit of partnership with other stakeholders.
- Feedback on the work of the Taskforce to the wider community.
- Provide support to the administration of the meetings of the Taskforce
- Prepare for Taskforce meetings by reading the agenda, minutes and any other papers in advance of a meeting.
- Act in the best interests with regard to the local population at all times and having regard to promoting equality and diversity at all times.
- Avoid conflicts of interest where possible or ensure conflicts are declared.

### **Person specification**

The following attributes are required of a Taskforce member

#### Essential

- Effective listening and communication skills
- A demonstrable interest in the issues facing the community in relation to equality, diversity and inclusion
- Proactively demonstrates strong commitment to equality, diversity and inclusion issues
- Ability to understand and weigh up evidence
- Ability to come to an objective view and explain that view by reference to the evidence
- Ability to work effectively with people and possess team-working skills
- Ability to engage with and work collaboratively as part of a group
- Must have respect for other people's views
- Able to handle sensitive and confidential information

#### Desirable

- Experience of being active in committees, community groups or local projects
- Experience of writing grant or funding applications
- Ability to think creatively and innovatively
- Ability to carefully evaluate and interpret historical information
- An interest in the history of the Stroud District

#### Eligibility criteria

In order to be considered for the role of the Community Representation Taskforce, you must be aged 18 or older and be resident in the Stroud District.

## **Commitment**

We anticipate the time commitment will be approximately 40 hours work over a four-to-eight-month period.

- We aim to hold all meetings remotely using Zoom or Microsoft Teams and we do not expect any expenses to be incurred. If the Taskforce prefers to meet face-to-face travel expenses can be claimed.
- This is a paid role

## **Remuneration**

Members of the Taskforce will be remunerated £800 each, to be paid across three instalments: 20% after the first meeting of the Taskforce; 35% once the design and content of the Information Plaque have been agreed; and 35% upon completion of the community project.

## **How do I become a Community Representative of the Task Force?**

Please complete and submit the Expression of Interest Application form to [policy@stroud.gov.uk](mailto:policy@stroud.gov.uk) by **midnight on Sunday 20 November**.

We will be in touch shortly after this date if you have been selected to attend a short interview.