

Report of: Director of City Development

Report to: Executive Board

Date: 21st October 2020

Subject: A review of statues in Leeds in response to Black Lives Matter

Are specific electoral wards affected? If yes, name(s) of ward(s):	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Has consultation been carried out?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Are there implications for equality and diversity and cohesion and integration?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Will the decision be open for call-in?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? If relevant, access to information procedure rule number: Appendix number:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

Summary

1. Main issues

As a response to the issues raised globally by the Black Lives Matter movement the Leader of Council asked Honorary Alderwoman Alison Lowe to lead a review of statues in Leeds. Alderwoman Lowe established a reference group of historians and academics, which was supported by council officers. The review was informed by a public consultation in the summer which elicited 813 responses.

The independent review by Alderwoman Lowe forms Appendix 1 of this report and suggests recommendations for discussion at Executive Board.

In summary, the review concluded that there appeared to be no individuals honoured by statues in Leeds who were known to be directly central to the slave trade. It was the view of the panel, echoed by the balance of opinion in the public consultation, that all existing statues in Leeds should remain in place.

Whilst there is little appetite amongst the public to remove statues of individuals, the review also recognises that that empire, colonialism and slavery are still prominent influences within the city's visible heritage that we can see today. Examples range from the history of Harewood House to a negative and stereotypical representation of an African on an architectural frieze on 18 Park Row.

Whilst elements in the debate around these issues can be quite polarised, there is a general consensus from all sides that education and a balanced understanding of history is of huge importance.

With that in mind the review also includes recommendations to review how statues are put into historical context, including through public information boards. It recommends that more can be done to support diversity and inclusion in the city - for instance with regard to future choices about honouring individuals within Leeds.

Honorary Alderwoman Lowe's recommendations are listed in section 1 of this report, with her full review attached as an Appendix.

2. Best Council Plan Implications (see the [latest version of the Best Council Plan](#))

The review links to Leeds Culture Strategy 2017 – 2030. Specifically, the 'place of many destinations' priority which aims for the public realm of Leeds to be its greatest cultural asset by 2030.

Equally, the review relates to 'Safe, Strong Communities' as detailed in the Best Council Plan. Specifically, it contributes to Leeds City Council responding to local needs, contributing to the building of thriving, resilient communities and promoting community respect and resilience.

3. Resource Implications

Participation in the review was on a voluntary basis and no fees or expenses were payable to the Chair or members of the reference group.

Administrative support was provided by City Council officers, from the Culture and Sport, Web Services, and Consultation and Engagement teams.

The appended report reviews and gives recommendations for future considerations regarding statues and public art in Leeds. If accepted, there could be resource implications linked to those recommendations. Should that be the case those costs will be set out and considered through the City Council's usual decision making processes.

4. Recommendations

It is recommended that Members of the Executive Board:

1. Thank Alderwoman Alison Lowe and the reference group for their important contribution to this work.
2. Note that the review does not include proposals to remove any existing statues in Leeds but that it recommends a number of initiatives to improve understanding of history, and to better recognise the role of diverse communities and individuals in the city.
3. Request the Chief Officer Culture and Sport and the Chief Officer Parks and Countryside to bring forward proposals to refresh public information boards in relation to statues on Woodhouse Moor in line with the recommendations in the review.
4. Continue to offer the Council's support for the development of a commemorative artwork in City Park honouring David Oluwale, and for the installation of Pippa Hale's artwork 'Ribbons' as described in section 3 of this report.
5. Accept all the other recommendations of Honorary Alderwoman Lowe's review, as listed in section 2.10 of this report, and request that the Chief Officer Culture and Sport works with others to take these matters forward.
6. Note the other initiatives described within section 3 of the report which are also being developed in response to the issues raised by the Black Lives Matter movement.

1. Purpose of this report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to determine Members of Executive Board response to the recommendations of Honorary Alderwoman Alison Lowe's review of statues in Leeds.

2. Background information

- 2.1 A fresh wave of protests and demonstrations are calling for action to end racial inequality and racism in the UK and across the world. Black Lives Matter is the most well-known movement but many other movements and organisations are involved.
- 2.2 The protests have highlighted examples of how racism continues to be prevalent in everyday life. One such example is the display of statues which honour people who were directly involved in, benefitted from or had links to the slave trade.
- 2.3 In response to the protests, the Labour Local Government Association announced a review of statues in Labour-led authorities.
- 2.4 A review of statues in Leeds was commissioned by Councillor Judith Blake, Leader of Council and the Executive Member with responsibility for Culture and the Economy.
- 2.5 The purpose of the review of statues in Leeds was to:
- Review how individuals have been celebrated through statues in a diverse, proud modern city such as Leeds.
 - Review mechanisms for the interpretation and understanding of the city's statues
 - Review all statues and representations of individuals in the public realm in Leeds, including consideration of their siting.
 - Consult broadly with a range of individuals and organisations on the above
 - Prepare a report with recommendations for any future actions.
- 2.6 The review was independent from Leeds City Council and was chaired by Honorary Alderwoman Alison Lowe. A small reference group of people with historical expertise were appointed by the Chair to support the review. The following individuals including from higher education institutions and Leeds Civic Trust were appointed: Dr Simon Morgan (Leeds Beckett University), Dr Emily Zobel Marshall (Leeds Beckett University), Dr Stephen Basdeo (Leeds Beckett University and Richmond University), James Rhodes (Leeds Historian), Martin Hamilton (Leeds Civic Trust), Jane Bhoyroo (Yorkshire Sculpture International).
- 2.7 The reference group reviewed an inventory of Leeds statues prepared by council officers. A broad definition of 'statues' was considered for the inventory including busts, friezes and other representations of individuals.
- 2.8 The review took into account responses from a wide range of interested individuals and organisations in Leeds through an open consultation. The consultation took place between 16th July and 31st July, subsequently extended to the 10th August. 813 responses were received during this time.
- 2.9 The review contains recommendations which can be considered by Executive Board and by any other relevant organisations (as not all statues under consideration are owned by the City Council).
- 2.10 The recommendations of the review are as follows:
1. To recognise that the consultation did not highlight a majority desire to remove any of the existing statues in Leeds.

2. There was a consensus that the current descriptions of the statues (via public-facing plaques) needed an accessible modern refresh to give fuller historical context to be completed by July 2021. The Reference Group offers the versions it developed for the consultation as useful starting points.
3. To address the lack of knowledge of who is already commemorated - and where - across the city by engaging Leeds Beckett students (via their Public History Project module) and the Leeds Civic Trust to map sites and communicate this as part of Leeds tourism strategy and the use of QR codes.
4. To honour those whose lives were blighted by slavery and in recognition of Leeds's active role in the anti-slavery movement by commemorating the Abolition of Slavery Act on Yorkshire Day 2021. Part of the reason for celebrating Yorkshire Day on 1st August each year is to mark Yorkshire MP William Wilberforce's role in abolition, but we must also consider the opportunity of including African narratives through <https://heritagecornerleeds.wixsite.com/heritage-corner/>
5. To liaise with the owners of 18 Park Row to request they consider erecting a plaque on the building outlining the history of the building as a former bank with links to the slave trade and the context of the frieze and its degradation of a black man.
6. To consider the opportunities presented by the redevelopment of City Square and in particular the Leeds 2023 Festival's curating of the square for that year to celebrate inclusion and diversity.
7. To work with the region's cultural and artistic partners to offer the space for temporary art installations before and after 2023.
8. To commission works of art that commemorate the varied contributions of the diverse citizens of Leeds, including (list not exhaustive) the Irish, Jewish, Asian and African/Caribbean communities of the city, LGBT+ communities and women (see also recommendation 9).
9. To support the current independent proposals for a sculpture garden for the memory of David Oluwale and Pippa Hale's sculpture commission "Ribbons"
10. To request a formal response to this review and its recommendations.

3. Main issues

- 3.1 Statues, public art and public design symbolise and contribute to an understanding of the values and history of a place for residents and visitors alike. However these are sometimes in conflict with contemporary values.
- 3.2 Leeds civic statuary is broadly Victorian, and is mostly of white men reflecting the dominant social structures and attitudes of the time they were erected (often by public subscription). Diversity and inclusion is rarely visible. Few large commemorative statues of individuals have been erected in Leeds in the last 100 years - during which time a much broader concept of what constitutes public art has developed.
- 3.3 It was clear that the existing figurative statues therefore disproportionately represent a particular group of individuals from a particular time. Whilst not recommending any of these statues are taken down, the review has identified the opportunity to reinterpret them as our understanding of history develops.
- 3.4 The research and consultation did not identify any individuals who were central to the slave trade - even if many were the beneficiaries of hereditary wealth and colonialism more broadly. This is due at least partly because Leeds is not a sea port

and was not reliant on, or benefitted directly from, either sugar or cotton industries (with the notable exception of Harewood House).

- 3.5 The review concluded that none of the statues listed were as closely linked to the slave trade as, for instance, was the statue of Edward Colston in Bristol, and the reference group could see no value in recommending removal of any of the statuary.
- 3.6 It was also noted that some of the statues were of figures whom had no known connection with Leeds including our most prominent statue, the Black Prince in City Square. Of course this statue now is valued by many people as a symbol of Leeds simply through its situation – this value being enhanced when it was dressed in a yellow jersey to celebrate Leeds hosting the first stage of the 2014 Tour de France.
- 3.7 The only work to have raised direct concerns in relation to potential slavery is an architectural frieze on 18 Park Row (Former West Riding Union Building). It is not a Council building and is in private ownership and is a frieze rather than a statue. The description of part of the frieze is of ‘an African lifting a bale’ with the individual represented dressed in a loincloth. As one of only two identified representations of Africans in the city’s statuary it presents a particularly negative image of what are a complex, diverse and influential African civilisations, and is considered degrading in that regard.
- 3.8 Council officers have subsequently been in contact with the owners of 18 Park Row, Westcourt Properties based in Harrogate, who have stated they are sympathetic to the nature of the issues raised. They have stated that they would be more than happy to erect a plaque on the building outlining the history and are happy to work with the council to suggest suitable wording for this.
- 3.9 Turning to the feedback to the public consultation, responses were diverse and generally well considered. The consultation and engagement team provided the review with some analysis of the 813 responses including visual representations in the form of word clouds and other analytics. This analysis can be seen as an appendix to Alderwoman Lowe’s review which is itself appended to this report. As can be seen from the analysis within the attached review, sentence ‘sentiment analysis’ found a 44% positive score with 21% negative.
- 3.10 Although small in number, the prevalence of some hate speech in the public consultation was disappointing, but also re-emphasises that racism is not a problem limited to history. (Whilst Alderwoman Lowe and the panel were made aware of these responses, the texts were not shared with them and were excluded from consideration in the review).
- 3.11 Other interesting elements from the review include that there appeared to be no ground swell of opinion in favour of removing statues with only c10% of respondents supported removal or whole-scale review. Respondents felt some of the existing statue plaques told a wrong or inadequate story. A broad spread of people/groups to potentially commemorate was suggested.
- 3.12 There appeared to be a lack of knowledge as to who had already been commemorated more recently, and through other means, such as Freedom of the City, the Leeds Award or the ‘Golden post boxes’ celebrating our Olympic stars.
- 3.13 Also not widely known are memorials to the communities and individuals who contributed, and sometimes died, as a result of the city’s industrial past. Examples include a sculpture by Harry Malkin taking the shape of a mining cage which was created as a memorial to the 87 men and boys lost their lives at Allerton Bywater

colliery. During its unveiling in September 2012, the names of all those killed at the pit were read out. A work by the same artist was unveiled in May 2007 in Methley dedicated to workers in the coal mining industry. A plaque at the site of Broom Colliery (located at Middleton Railway) is dedicated to the memory of those who worked at and gave their lives at the colliery. Rothwell Colliery Pit Wheel sits as a memorial on a roundabout near Stourton. There is no comprehensive list of such works and others may exist.

- 3.14 Whilst the many war memorials across Leeds were broadly out of scope of the review, special mention should be made to the Barnbow lasses. A munitions factory at Barnbow (located between Crossgates and Garforth) was built and in operation during the First World War. Workers filled shells which were sent and used on the Western Front. 93% of the workers were female and therefore earned the nickname 'the Barnbow Lasses'. Shell filling was extremely dangerous, in 1916 an explosion killed 35 people and injured many more. Two further explosions in 1917 and 1918 killed a further 5 people. The memorials to the victims are located in Manston Park and Crossgates Road. William Parkin, who worked at the munitions factory as a mechanic, pulled 12 women to safety during the first explosion in 1916. The eponymous William Parkin Bridge near Thorpe Park Retail Park, and William Parkin Way which passes partially over the site, provide testament to his actions.

Other activity in relation to Black Lives Matter

- 3.15 The statue review is not the only initiative taking place in response to calls for racial equality. It is taking place in the wider context globally of a range of different responses, most visible perhaps within sport.
- 3.16 Challenges have been raised as to how services, resources, education, employment, health and justice can work collaboratively towards addressing the issues and finding solutions which actively promote anti-racism. The following list is not exhaustive, but a selection of examples of initiatives by the Council and its partners:
- 3.17 The Leeds Film and Leeds Young Film teams continue to explore ways of increasing diversity across activities which include Leeds International Film Festival, Leeds Young Film Festival, the INDIs (for 15-30 year-olds), Leeds Film Academy and the Burberry Inspire project in schools. Leeds Film and Leeds Young Film have achieved the national Diversity Standards set out by the British Film Institute, meeting the required criteria in all four categories: on-screen representation, themes and narratives; creative leadership and project team; industry access and opportunities; and audience development.

Activities for 2019 included the highest representation yet for British and international Black filmmaking and for 2020/21 this is increasing further through new partnerships with the British Council, Film Africa 2020, The School of Oriental & African Studies in London, Films Femmes Afriques in Senegal, and Leeds City Council's Leeds Migration Project, working with Leeds communities including Lincoln Green.

In July, Leeds Young Film put together [a list of films](#) to support children, young people and families to explore the issue of Black Lives Matter in line with the longstanding, core objective to ensure young people can see themselves reflected and represented on screen.

3.18 Leeds Museums and Galleries is rated as 'strong' by Arts Council England for 'Creative Case for Diversity', and is aiming for the highest rating of 'Excellent'. It has a significant track record of working with the people and diverse communities of Leeds. In response to the Black Lives Matter movement, all teams have been reviewing their areas of work and implementing initiatives to build on the longstanding community and partnership work LMG has undertaken and the ongoing contemporary collecting to represent the people and communities of Leeds today.

The Collections & Programmes team have added a number of new classifications to the collections database to internally highlight objects with colonial histories or where there is racist or contentious content. A number of the team have written blog posts which share some of the research being undertaken in relation to the collections, to recognise and make explicit colonial histories, for example within the natural science and industrial history collections.

The Audience Development team have continued to foreground content relating to Black Lives Matter and the Service's work around diversity more broadly, working with colleagues to do so, across LMG's digital platforms. Through staff conversations a list of resources and links to reading, films and other material has been pooled and is available to all staff.

The Learning & Access team is particularly focused on how Black British history can be incorporated into school workshop programming and how they can advocate and influence for change to the National Curriculum. Resources on MyLearning.org have been expanded and edited to be more explicit about references to colonialism, oppression and slavery, as well as ensuring content celebrates Black history and positive role models alongside other stories of diversity.

A new theme "[Leeds: Empire and Colonialism](#)" has been added to the Leeds Curriculum, and currently contains seven stories:

- The ordinary people of Leeds who owned enslaved people. (New learning story)
- Sorrel and black cake: a Windrush story
- Leeds explores the world. (New chapter added focusing on colonialism and museum collections, featuring case studies from our natural history, world cultures and archaeology collections. This is now a diverse resource, with chapters on an independent female Victorian who challenged stereotypes, gender bias in tech and the impact of the lack of women in the tech industry)
- Leeds makes trains (New information added in the introduction, making an explicit link between industry in Leeds and the British Empire).
- Exploring post-colonial history: Sir Martin Frobisher (New learning story)
- Decolonisation and natural science collections (New learning story)
- Abolition and anti-slavery movement in Leeds

Additionally, a new learning story "[A city and its welcome](#)" has been added to the Leeds Curriculum. This is based on the recent exhibition of the same name held in Leeds City Museum, focusing on the history of migration to Leeds and the skills and traditions, values and beliefs that migrants bring with them.

The following are also currently being researched and once complete, will be added to the Leeds Curriculum:

- A new learning story focusing on how local products such as Yorkshire Parkin and Yorkshire tea are in fact, reliant on global trade, and historically, some of the

ingredients used to make these 'local' products were gained through the triangular slave trade (for example, sugar).

- A new chapter in the existing "Entertaining Leeds: at the theatre" learning story focusing on travelling theatre companies and telling the story of Melina Dingwall, a black actress who performed several times in Leeds and whose portrait photograph we hold in the collection.

'A Global View' is being added to relevant LMG resources on MyLearning. This is a short paragraph in the introduction which gives a broader understanding and insight into events happening in other parts of the world at the time period in which the learning story it is being added to is set. It will help to orientate teachers (and through them, pupils) in a more global view of history, highlighting the achievements of other cultures and the impact of world events. This interactive link for Mylearning can be accessed to view the updates detailed above:

<https://www.thinglink.com/card/1360984130640150531>

- 3.19 Leeds Anchor Network held a workshop to explore how some of Leeds' largest employers could collaborate to harmonise the publication of workforce diversity data to provide a unique insight into the extent to which Anchors' workforces reflect the communities it serves. This partnership comprising 12 Anchor Institutions with over 58,000 employees - 1 in 6 employees in the city - and with annual expenditure in excess of £2bn provides an important opportunity to unlock the potential for transformational change and outcomes to address inequalities in the city.

Leeds would be the first city in the UK to create a workforce diversity dashboard of this type and the insights it generates should also help us to collaborate on our recruitment and employment policies and practices to deal with some of the disparities which it will inevitably illustrate.

The workshop was organised by Yorkshire Water on behalf of the Anchors and took place online on September 18 courtesy of ODI Leeds, who will be a partner in the project. The main output of the session was an agreed outline plan to progressively build the dashboard over the next 6-12 months, starting with a subset of the Anchor network as early adopters, moving over time to a point at which we can achieve fuller coverage.

It is anticipated that the roundtable will be start of a journey to demonstrate to that as a city committed to workforce equality and diversity evidenced by sharing our collaborative work on gender and ethnicity pay gap reporting and joint actions that flow from this.

Leeds City Council is committed to action in this area and will play its part in contributing to the network's ambition to develop a City workforce diversity dashboard - to ensure that as a public service body we reflect the communities we serve and that employment opportunities with largest employers in the city are open and accessible to our citizens. The opportunity to embed this approach across the network and support and encourage others to do so has the potential leverage real change.

- 3.20 In Leeds work is in its early stages to understand the issues that have been raised by the racial equality movement and their impact and to develop work which actively promotes anti-racism and will challenge the issues of systemic and institutional racism. This is an important issue for the city and a core group of people from

communities and organisations in the city including Elected Members and statutory partners have met and developed an action plan to understand how these issues can be taken forward.

This work recognises that it is vital that we all work together to build a compassionate city where racism and prejudice of any kind is challenged, its root causes understood and work as a city to address them. Two of the work strands in the action plan, culture and place, have been identified link closely to the statue review. The outcomes from the statue review will be considered as part of this work

- 3.21 The David Oluwale Memorial Association is leading a proposal for a sculpture which honours the memory of David Oluwale, and is aimed to be situated in the new City Park. Details can be found at <https://rememberoluwale.org/>.
- 3.22 'Ribbons' by artist Pippa Hale is a sculpture that has been selected for the Feminist Public Sculpture to be sited at Quarry Hill in Leeds. The project has been conceived by Rachel Reeves MP and project managed by Leeds Arts University in collaboration with Leeds City Council to champion women's achievements in Leeds and to provide a more balanced diverse gender representation of public sculpture in Leeds. The sculpture will be launched in 2021. More information on the project can be seen here: <https://pippahale.com/portfolio/ribbons/>
- 3.23 In June, in response to the tragic murder of George Floyd, Open Source Arts convened a group of colleagues from across the cultural sector in Leeds titled "Black Lives Matter in the Arts and Our Communities". The focus for this group was on becoming educated, to enable white led organisations in the cultural sector in Leeds to take an actively anti-racist stance, rather than simply ignoring racism and hoping they would not be perceived as racist.

A group of colleagues from thirty different organisations have attended, including Northern ballet, LCC Arts & Venues, LCC Museums and Galleries, Opera North, ITV, Yorkshire Dance and Red Ladder. There have been an average of 25 participants per week for the 10 sessions.

Initially the sessions focussed on creating a baseline of understanding so all participants were on the same level of awareness, before moving onto more complex conversations around building individual and organisational resilience and how challenging the dynamics of racism on a personal and organisational level could begin. Participating organisations have been up-skilled in conversation and facilitation tools to enable them to host their own satellite conversations in their workplaces, with over 15 organisations already commencing their own learning groups in their organisations to create opportunities for their team members to build their courage and resilience, to support them in transforming already existing equality and diversity policies into actual anti-racist actions on a daily basis.

This work builds on Open Source Arts existing experience in creating dialogue and practical action processes for building community and doing so in a peace building, trauma informed way. The process aims to engage the cultural sector in Leeds in a shared step change, where the entire sector can create a sense of deep welcome in the city for people of any heritage, beginning with an understanding that culture is about much more than simply performance - it is about how everything we do in the city weaves together to create the sense of the place we live in and how we exist together. By building the personal leadership of all team members in the cultural sector organisations, the ambition is to build capacity to work with an actively anti-

racist awareness which will enable them to create a city which is more welcoming for everybody.

Open Source Arts are grateful for all the mentorship already received from colleagues at Leeds 2023, LCC culture & sport teams, Sharon Watson at NSCD, Keranjeet Kaur Virdee from SAA UK, and all the artists and people of colour who have already done excellent anti-racist work and created resources from which the group is learning. Open Source Arts are committed to doing this work in an accountable way which does not centre white led organisations as ‘saviours’, and they have convened a group of black and brown leaders from the cultural sector in Leeds to whom they will be answerable in the coming second stage of the learning which is due to recommence early November. Open Source Arts are also developing relationships with black led organisations who are doing anti-racist work in the arts sector nationally, including Eclipse Theatre and Inc. Arts, to ensure the process is authentically governed, ultimately owned and led by those with experience of racism working in equitable partnership with their white colleagues to create meaningful change which models the truly equitable futures which everyone wants to see.

4. Corporate considerations

4.1 Consultation and engagement

- 4.1.1 A reference group of experts was formed to support the independent review. Chief Officer for Culture and Sport participated as an observer in those meetings.
- 4.1.2 A public consultation took place between 16th and 31st July 2020 which was extended to 10th August. The consultation was advertised predominantly online and through Leeds City Council’s social media platforms. The review was widely reported by local media including, but not limited to, BBC, BBC Look North, Yorkshire Evening Post and Radio Leeds.
- 4.1.3 813 responses was received, 41 responses were not included either because they were not relevant or were duplicate responses which meant that 772 emails were analysed. Summaries of the responses can be seen in the attached review.
- 4.1.4 There were some challenges in the public consultation. By analysing both text and the general location of responders, it is suspected that there was some use of social media to aid the organisation of campaigns to influence the conclusions of the review and galvanise responses from participants with similar views. It is clear that attention was drawn to the review well beyond Leeds metropolitan area. The responses do not however suggest that these campaigns have been particularly successful.
- 4.1.5 Stakeholders, including leaders of opposition parties were approached by Alderwoman Lowe to discuss the review.

4.2 Equality and diversity / cohesion and integration

- 4.2.1 In order to encourage a balanced and broad range of opinions, partner organisations and stakeholders were contacted and were encouraged to respond and promote further the statue review.
- 4.2.2 One of the intended outcomes of the statue review is to explore how Leeds may become more representative of its population and better celebrate its diversity in the

future. This is with a view to supporting equality and diversity and to increase cohesion and integration between all demographics of the population.

- 4.2.3 An Equality, Diversity, Cohesion and Integration Screening has been undertaken and is attached as an appendix.

4.3 Council policies and the Best Council Plan

- 4.3.1 This review responded to public interest and discussion on the role of statues in cities across the UK. The review was therefore not previously planned in council policies or in the Best Council Plan.

- 4.3.2 This fits within the aims of Leeds Culture Strategy 2017 – 2030. Specifically, the ‘place of many destinations’ priority which plans for the public realm of Leeds to be its greatest cultural asset by 2030.

- 4.3.3 Equally, the review relates to ‘Safe, Strong Communities’ as detailed in the Best Council Plan. Specifically, it contributes to Leeds City Council responding to local needs, contributing to the building of thriving, resilient communities and promoting community respect and resilience.

Climate Emergency

- 4.3.4 There are no foreseen environmental impacts to this review. Any action following this review will be considered and undertaken through the City Council’s usual processes. Environmental impacts will be highlighted and considered during that process.

4.5 Resources, procurement and value for money

- 4.5.1 Participation in the review was on a voluntary basis and no fees or expenses were payable to the Chair or members of the reference group, except for any access requirements.
- 4.5.2 Administrative support was provided by City Council officers, from the culture and sport, web services and consultation and engagement teams.
- 4.5.3 The attached report reviews and gives recommendations for future considerations to statues and public art in Leeds. If accepted, there could be resource implications linked to those recommendations, in which case any further resource implications will be set out and considered through the City Council’s usual decision making process.

4.6 Legal implications, access to information, and call-in

- 4.6.1 This is not a key decision but is eligible for call-in.
- 4.6.2 Feedback from public consultation will be kept confidential and processed within the guidelines of the City Council’s data policies.

4.7 Risk management

- 4.7.1 No risks are identified within this report.

5. Conclusions

- 5.1 A review of statues in Leeds has been undertaken in order to respond to calls for an end to racial inequality. The review concluded that although no individuals honoured by statues have been identified as being central to the slave trade, many were beneficiaries of hereditary wealth and colonialism more broadly.
- 5.2 The report notes that there are also representations of slavery within Leeds' heritage beyond statues, such as the architectural frieze on 18 West Park Row.
- 5.3 Whilst there is no appetite amongst the public to remove statues of individuals, there remains an understanding that themes of empire and colonialism are still prominent within the city's heritage.
- 5.4 The report therefore has concluded that more can be done to support diversity and inclusion in the city. Specifically, this is with regard to honouring individuals and updating public spaces to be in keeping with modern values and better represent both the history and current diversity of the city.
- 5.5 It is important to note that this statue review offers a response to a small part of the discussion on racial equality. It is recognised that work needs to be undertaken more broadly to support equality and inclusion within Leeds and across the country and globe. Leeds City Council will continue to engage with its citizens under the compassionate city agenda to further this work.

6. Recommendations

- 6.1 It is recommended that Members of the Executive Board:
 1. Thank Alderwoman Alison Lowe and the reference group for their important contribution to this work.
 2. Note that the review does not include proposals to remove any existing statues in Leeds but that it recommends a number of initiatives to improve understanding of history, and to better recognise the role of diverse communities and individuals in the city.
 3. Request the Chief Officer Culture and Sport and the Chief Officer Parks and Countryside to bring forward proposals to refresh public information boards in relation to statues on Woodhouse Moor in line with the recommendations in the review.
 4. Continue to offer the Council's support for the development of a commemorative artwork in City Park honouring David Oluwale, and for the installation of Pippa Hale's artwork 'Ribbons' as described in section 3 of this report.
 5. Accept all the other recommendations of Honorary Alderwoman Lowe's review, as listed in section 2.10 of this report, and request that the Chief Officer Culture and Sport works with others to take these matters forward.
 6. Note the other initiatives described within section 3 of the report which are also being developed in response to the issues raised by the Black Lives Matter movement.

7. Background documents¹

7.1 None.

8. Appendices

8.1 Review of statues in Leeds by Honorary Alderwoman Alison Lowe.

8.2 Equality, Diversity, Cohesion and Integration Screening Document.

¹ The background documents listed in this section are available to download from the council's website, unless they contain confidential or exempt information. The list of background documents does not include published works.