

Tackling Racism Taskforce

A public summary of the Tackling Racism Taskforce's meeting held on 24 July 2020.

The Tackling Racism Taskforce held its third meeting on 24 July 2020. The key focus of this meeting was on **culture**, and specifically on historic landmarks within the City of London.

The Taskforce considered a report concerning historic landmarks within the City of London with a proposal for a consultative exercise to be undertaken to help inform the Taskforce's recommendation on what action should be taken to address historic landmarks that are associated with Britain's role in the slave trade, colonial history and historic racist acts.

A detailed discussion took place considering several options such as adapting current statues to include added description or visual interpretation, replacing statues with a memorial, or leaving statues but adding a memorial to victims of the slave trade, amongst other options. The Taskforce concluded that they would like to undertake a consultative exercise to capture more views to help inform their recommendation to the Policy and Resources Committee. Working closely with the Mayor's commission to review the diversity of its public realm, this consultative exercise will aim to begin in September and will run for three months. Further work will be undertaken over the Summer to develop the scope, governance and mechanism of the consultation. The Taskforce urged that the work on this matter be carried out at pace.

In addition, the Taskforce agreed to the formal recommendations relating to staffing, which will be considered by the Establishment and Policy & Resources Committee in September. These recommendations were set out in the public summary of the 13 July 2020.

There was also a suggestion that this Taskforce put together some guidance for Chairs, as well as Members and Officers, to help with conversations about diversity in Committee meetings. This would complement the Equally Yours unconscious bias training which all Members and Officers are asked to complete. The Taskforce agreed to look at some proposed guidance at its meeting focused on governance and civic issues in September.

Finally, an elected Member of the Taskforce raised a concern that the balance of discussion during these Taskforce meetings tended to be weighted on the elected Members' side. Officers were encouraged to feel free to challenge and disagree with Members, and the Clerk was asked to consider mechanisms to allow for more discussion from everyone, such as the use of breakout rooms, which had worked well for the staffing session previously.

For any enquiries to the Tackling Racism Taskforce, please contact emma.cunnington@cityoflondon.gov.uk

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