Committee:	Joint Consultative Committee with Ethnic Minority Organisations
Date:	**11 March 2015**
Wards:	All
Subject:	**Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) Voice – Update**
Lead officer: Partnerships	Evereth Willis, Interim Head of Policy, and Strategy &
Lead member:	Councillor Edith Macauley, Cabinet Member for Community Safety, Equalities and Engagement
Contact officer:	Evereth Willis, Interim Head of Policy, Strategy & Partnerships (evereth.willis@merton.gov.uk)

Recommendations:

A.   That members of the Joint Consultative Committee with Ethnic Minority Organisations (JCC) note the Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) voice activity that has taken place since their last meeting.

1   PURPOSE OF REPORT AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1.   To provide members of the Joint Consultative Committee with Ethnic Minority Organisations with an update on the Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) voice activity that has taken place since their last meeting and discuss the next steps.

2   DETAILS

2.1.   At their meeting in March 2014 the Joint Consultative Committee with Ethnic Minority Organisations considered a proposal for a project to explore concerns about capacity within the BAME voluntary sector to support BAME voice and capacity building. The JCC expressed concerns about the need for an additional piece of research, stressing that sufficient information was already available, and requested that a public meeting be called to discuss the proposed project.

2.2.   An extra JCC meeting held on 23 July 2014 agreed that a community meeting should be held to bring together a wider group of representatives of the BAME community to seek their views on what is needed to promote BAME voice and capacity building in Merton.

2.3.   An event was held at the Positive Network centre on 9 September 2014 and was facilitated by Carol Campayne and Paul Anthony from Diversity Practice. An update of this event was presented to the JCC held on 24 September 2014.

2.4.   A further event was held on 11 November at the Positive Network centre and facilitated by Diversity Practice to continue the discussion on developing the BAME Voice in the borough. The event explored the following themes:

What are we working towards?

In one year's time what will we have achieved as the BAME Voice?

Representation and full engagement

How do we ensure diverse representation -

- Who does that include?

- Whose voices have not yet been heard?

- What can we do to make sure those voices are heard?

- What are the areas of focus that require representation (e.g. housing, crime, health etc.)?

How do we get full engagement? - What do we need to do to bring young people on board?

Services Provided

What will we do and how will we do it?

Credibility and Reputation –

What do we need to do to establish the credibility of the new entity?

- How do we establish credibility?
- Who do we need to build relationships with?
- What do we need to pay attention to?

Resources -

As an organisation, what resources will the BAME Voice require?

What can you commitment to?

- Membership of the steering group?

Other ways you can support establishing the BAME Voice?

2.5.   The steering group met on 29 January and 19 February to develop terms of reference and agree membership for a strategic BAME Voice organisation. The steering group has suggested that BAME be replaced with 'Minority Ethnic 'as it was felt that many people do not identify with term 'BAME.'

2.6.   The steering group members are outlined in Appendix I and the draft terms of reference are outlined in Appendix II.

2.7.   .

3   ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

3.1.   Community members could choose not to take this work forward but this would lose the momentum and commitment of those involved to date.

4   CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN OR PROPOSED

4.1.   The event was publicised through the council's website, Merton Connected website and newsletter, and various community mailing lists held by the council.

5   APPENDICES – THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENTS ARE TO BE PUBLISHED WITH THIS REPORT AND FORM PART OF THE REPORT

- Appendix I – Steering group members

6   BACKGROUND PAPERS

6.1.   None

Appendix I

BAME Voice steering group members

Fitzroy Dawson	Merton Unity Network, Merton Oasis, Merton Community Transport
Hannah Neale	African Educational Cultural & Health Organisation
Grace Salmon	Positive Network
Edward Maliki	Power Centre Church, Wood World Missions
Patricia Anderson	Merton Unity Network
Slawek Szczepanski	Polish Family Association
Ibrahim Rizvi	Pakistan Welfare Association
Andrea Colquhoun	Mitcham Filipino British Association
Lola Barratt	Merton Voluntary Services Council, Grenfell Housing, Merton Unity Network