

*On behalf of the Trustees of Leeds Civic Trust, I would sincerely like to thank Susan Pitter and all the members of the Reference Group for their time, openness and honesty in researching and writing the review.*

*The Trustees understand that the issues raised and discussed may have been painful to articulate and so to everyone who shared their thoughts and suggestions with the Reference Group we are truly grateful.*

*Our journey with Susan began after the murder of George Floyd and the subsequent BLM protests. We felt that it was necessary to reflect upon our existing blue plaques (180 unveiled over three decades) and, at the same time, consider the future of the blue plaques scheme so they will more accurately portray the history of our wonderfully diverse city.*

*As a result of Susan's review the Trust proposes to re-examine our existing plaques on a rolling basis. We intend to use events, articles, blog posts and other tools to highlight new facts that may have emerged over time with the aim to present a more detailed picture of our plaque subjects.*

*However, it is the future the review focuses on. In the short term action will be taken to increase openness and participation within the scheme, we will make the application form more informative and accessible and the process altogether more transparent.*

*Susan's report has provided the Trust with solid foundations to build upon. Ones which will lay meaningful structures for the future of our blue plaques scheme. We are determined to keep listening, to keep improving and to implement the recommendations made.*

*Some of the recommendations can and will be fulfilled very quickly but as a small charity we recognise that many will take longer to accomplish. It is our intention to publish a report, 'Blue Plaques:2022 and Beyond' later in the year which will set out how we aim to embed the longer term recommendations and to show actions already implemented.*

*I should like to conclude by saying thank you once again to Susan, the Reference Group and the people of Leeds.*

*Jane Taylor*

*Chair, Leeds Civic Trust*