



SOUTH  
KESTEVEN  
DISTRICT  
COUNCIL

# Council

17 September 2020

## Notice of Motion

Councillor Amanda Wheeler



### Motion to tackle inequality and racial discrimination

South Kesteven District Council recognises that systemic racism and inequalities still exist in the UK today. SKDC commits to ensuring there is no place for institutional racism or unconscious bias in its functions and practices and that it is an authority not just tackling inequality to meet a duty, but one that actively works with its communities and other agencies to fight racism and hate crime throughout the district.

As such, SKDC resolves:

- To declare that this Council is intolerant to racism and will continue to seek to eradicate it, Islamophobia, Anti-Semitism and hate crime across the district by developing initiatives that are actively inclusive and anti-racist;
- To ask organisations across the district to pledge their commitment to anti-racism and tackling inequality;
- To initiate a review involving BAME (Black, Asian and minority ethnic) members of our community, of processes, policies and organisational attitudes;
- To invite appropriate speakers on these issues to help with training for councillors and staff.

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### Background information

A recent (June) Public Health England report found that Black, Asian and minority ethnic communities have been disproportionately impacted by Covid-19, with people from Black, Bangladeshi, Pakistani and Indian backgrounds up to twice as likely to die from coronavirus compared to white people. (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-understanding-the-impact-on-bame-communities>)

According to Home Office data, black people are 40 times more likely to be stopped and searched under Section 60 (the power which allows officers to search anyone in a defined area for a limited period if serious violence is anticipated). (<https://www.theguardian.com/law/2019/may/04/stop-and-search-new-row-racial-bias>)

According to a 2018 study by the Equality and Human Rights Commission, 35.7 percent of ethnic minorities in the UK were living in poverty:

([https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/EPoverty/UnitedKingdom/2018/NGOS/EqualityHRCommissionWales\\_annex1.pdf](https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/EPoverty/UnitedKingdom/2018/NGOS/EqualityHRCommissionWales_annex1.pdf))

Black Caribbean and mixed white/Black Caribbean children have rates of permanent exclusion about three times that of the pupil population as a whole. (<https://www.ethnicity-facts-figures.service.gov.uk/education-skills-and-training/absence-and-exclusions/pupil-exclusions/latest>)

South Kesteven has an increasingly diverse population. Mapping of the district shows significant increases in black and minority ethnic (BAME) communities and, whilst the greatest concentration of diversity is located in the north of the district, specifically Grantham, there are ever-growing communities from India, Nepal, Africa and parts of Eastern Europe settling in all four urban centres of the district.

South Kesteven experienced its most significant population changes between the Census of 2001 and 2011 and the diversity of its residents continues to grow. At the Census in 2001 the non-British population in this area was recorded as less than 1%. By 2011 this percentage representation had risen to 4.5% and according to the 2018 ONS Mid-Year Population Estimate it had increased again to around 9%. These figures will be corroborated or amended following the 2021 Census. Whilst numbers of people from individual nationalities cannot be described as high in South Kesteven, the number of different nationalities is significant.

The Annual Population Survey released in May 2019 provides the estimated population resident in the UK by nationality. The figures are provided in blocks so definitive numbers and locations in terms of country of birth are outlines only. The Office for National Statistics therefore shows ethnicity within South Kesteven as follows:

- **EU14 – Estimated total 3,000**

This figure would include residents from:

Austria, Denmark, Belgium, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Luxemburg, Netherlands, Portugal, Republic of Ireland, Spain, Sweden

- **EU8 – Estimated total 8,000**

This figure would include residents from:

Czech Republic, Estonia, Poland, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Slovakia, Slovenia

- **EU2 – Estimated total 2,000**

This figure would include residents from: Bulgaria, Romania

- **South East Asia – Estimated total 2,000**

This figure could include (but is not restricted to) residents from: Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam

- **Sub Saharan Africa – Estimated total 2,000**

This figure could include (but is not restricted to) residents from:

Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Namibia, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Africa, Sudan, Tanzania, The Gambia, Zimbabwe

The school census in January 2011 indicates that there are 2,068 BAME (Black Asian and Minority Ethnic) school children in the district out of a total pupil population of 18,234.