

19 October 2015

Agenda Item: 07

REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, EDUCATION STANDARDS AND INCLUSION

STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SACRE): PROPOSED REVISION OF THE CONSTITUTION

Purpose of the Report

1. This report seeks approval of the revised constitution of Nottinghamshire's Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE).

Information and Advice

2. The local authority is required by chapter 3, (paragraphs 375 - 399) of the Education Act 1996, to constitute a SACRE. The proposed revised constitution (attached as **Appendix 1**) outlines the arrangements and membership of Nottinghamshire's SACRE which also reflect the requirement of Circular 1/94 for the SACRE to broadly represent the proportionate strength of local religious groups.
3. The statutory duty is reaffirmed in the 'Religious Education Guidance in English schools: Non-statutory guidance 2010' which states, 'An LA should fund and support a SACRE and an Agreed Syllabus Conference (ASC) satisfactorily in line with the duty to constitute or convene each of these bodies and to enable them effectively to carry out their function.'
4. SACRE's constitution was last revised in 2007 and it is the view of SACRE that a review is appropriate to reflect the recent changes that have taken place in education and in the Local Authority.
5. All SACRE members have been fully involved in the review and the vote to recommend the proposed changes to the Committee was unanimous.
6. The main changes to the current constitution being recommended to Committee for approval are:
 - the redrafting of some of the text to clarify the meaning
 - the reduction of membership in Group A, Representatives of the Children and Young People's Committee, from 6 to 3
 - the updating of titles, for example, Children and Young People's Committee
 - arrangements for the nomination and selection of Vice Chair until 2020.

Other Options Considered

7. No other options were required to be considered.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

8. To comply with the requirement to review and revise the constitution as set out in the Education act 1996
9. To ensure appropriate, manageable representation in all groups.

Statutory and Policy Implications

10. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of finance, the public sector equality duty, human resources, crime and disorder, human rights, the safeguarding of children, sustainability and the environment and those using the service and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

Financial Implications

11. The cost of operating SACRE is included in the wider Support to Schools Service budgets and there will be no further costs incurred as a result of the review of the constitution.

Crime and Disorder Implications

12. Appropriate consideration has been given to the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. It is the view of the County Council that this outside body supports the development of responsible citizens.

Safeguarding of Children and Adults at Risk Implications

13. The outside body takes due account of safeguarding needs and requirements in all aspects of its responsibilities and functions

Human Resources Implications

14. Appropriate levels of human resources have been allocated to the outside body.

RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1) That the revised constitution of Nottinghamshire's Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education be approved and adopted with immediate effect.

John Slater

Service Director, Education Standards & Inclusion

For any enquiries about this report please contact:

Andrew Fox
Team Manager, Support to Schools Service – Education Improvement
T: 01623 434146
E: Andrew.fox@nottsgov.uk

Constitutional Comments (SMG 01/10/15)

15. The Committee has responsibility for the functions and powers conferred on or exercisable by the County Council as Local Authority in relation to education. The proposals in this report fall within the remit of this Committee.

Financial Comments (SS 25/09/15)

16. The financial implications of this report are contained within paragraph 11 above.

Background Papers and Published Documents

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

Department for Education Circular number 1/94 Religious Education and Collective Worship

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All.

C0703