

Appointment of Representatives to the West Berkshire Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education

Committee considering report:	Individual Executive Member Decision
Date of Committee:	29 June 2022
Portfolio Member:	Councillor Dominic Boeck
Report Author:	Sadie Owen
Forward Plan Ref:	ID4224

1 Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To recommend the appointment of the following to the West Berkshire Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education:
- Dilip Ladwa (Hindu), Group A - Representatives of Christian denominations other than the Church of England and of other religions;
 - Roseanna Obsiye, Group C – Education union representatives.

2 Recommendation

- 2.1 To agree the appointment of the above to the West Berkshire Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education.

3 Implications and Impact Assessment

Implication	Commentary
Financial:	None
Human Resource:	None
Legal:	None
Risk Management:	None

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Property:	None			
Policy:	In accordance with Section 390 of the Education Act 1996 a local education authority shall constitute a standing advisory council on religious education for the purposes mentioned in section 391(1).			
	Positive	Neutral	Negative	Commentary
Equalities Impact:				
A Are there any aspects of the proposed decision, including how it is delivered or accessed, that could impact on inequality?		X		
B Will the proposed decision have an impact upon the lives of people with protected characteristics, including employees and service users?		X		
Environmental Impact:		X		
Health Impact:		X		
ICT Impact:		X		
Digital Services Impact:		X		
Council Strategy Priorities:		X		

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Core Business:		X		
Data Impact:		X		
Consultation and Engagement:	Lynne Doherty (Council Leader), Alan Law (Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee), and Lee Dillon (Leader of the Opposition)			

4 Executive Summary

- 4.1 The Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE) was established in accordance with Section 390 of the Education Act 1996 by West Berkshire District Council acting as the Local Education Authority. Its purpose is to set the RE syllabus, advise the Local Authority on matters connected with religious worship and advise on methods of teaching, the choice of materials used and the provision of training for teachers.
- 4.2 The Local Authority is responsible for appointing members to each of the four groups set out in the table below. This is usually achieved by seeking nominations from each area. Each of the groups is afforded a single vote to use when voting is necessary.

The four groups are:

Group A: Representatives of Christian denominations other than the Church of England and of other religions (8 places)	Group B: Church of England representatives (4 PLACES)
Group C: Up to 6 Education Union representatives from the following Unions, with no more than 3 from any one union: NUT, NAS/UWT, ATL, PAT, NAHT,SHA, NEU	Group D Representatives of the local authority (4)

The current Membership of the Committee is as follows:

Group	Representatives
A	Mobasshir Mushtaq (Muslim) Rabbi Zvi Solomons (Jewish), Revd David Taylor (Baptist) + 5 vacancies (Free Church, Roman Catholic, Buddhist, Hindu, Sikh)

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B	Mary Stagg, Robin Sharples, Val Bolan + 1 vacancy
C	Amanda Bedding (NEU), Clare Hawkins (NASUWT) and Chris Ward (NEU) + 3 vacancies
D	Councillors Lynne Doherty, Billy Drummond, David Marsh and Tony Linden

- 4.3 Nominations have been received for: Dilip Ladwa and Roseanna Obsiye. If appointed, Dilip Ladwa (Hindu) would represent Group A (Representatives of Christian denominations other than the Church of England and of other religions), and Roseanna Obsiye would represent Group C (Education Union Representatives) on the West Berkshire SACRE.
- 4.4 The nominations have been supported by Member Stakeholders as set out in the consultation responses. No objections were received to the nominations.

5 Other options considered

- 5.1 Not to appoint any additional representatives.

6 Conclusion

- 6.1 To accept the proposed nominations.

7 Appendices

- 7.1 Appendix A – West Berkshire District Council Standing Advisory Council On Religious Education's Constitution

Subject to Call-In:

Yes: No:

- The item is due to be referred to Council for final approval
- Delays in implementation could have serious financial implications for the Council
- Delays in implementation could compromise the Council's position
- Considered or reviewed by Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee or associated Task Groups within preceding six months
- Item is Urgent Key Decision
- Report is to note only
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APPENDIX A

WEST BERKSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

The Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE) is established in accordance with Section 390 of the Education Act 1996 by West Berkshire District Council acting as local education authority.

(a) 1 MEMBERSHIP STRUCTURE

The members of the SACRE (other than co-opted) shall be appointed by the Authority so that they shall represent the following groups:

(b) **Group A** **Christian denominations and other religions**

The Free Churches	2
The Roman Catholic Church	1
Buddhism	1
Hinduism	1
Islam	1
Judaism	1
Sikhism	1

Group B **The Church of England** 4

Group C **Associations representing teachers.**

Up to 6 Education Union representatives from the following Unions, with no more than 3 from any one Union

NUT, NAS/UWT, ATL, PAT, NAHT, SHA, NEU

Group D **The Authority** 4

(c) **Total** 22

(d) 2 TERM OF OFFICE

(i) Members of the SACRE shall serve from the date of their appointment until their successors are appointed by the Authority. They shall be eligible for re-appointment.

(ii) Any member who fails to attend three consecutive ordinary meetings of the SACRE other than for a reason approved by the SACRE shall cease to be a member.

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(iii) The validity of the proceedings of the SACRE, or of any of its representative groups, shall not be affected by a vacancy in the membership or on the ground that a member does not at the time represent the denomination, religion or association he or she was appointed to represent.

(e) 3 DUTIES AND POWERS

(i) The SACRE shall advise the Authority on such matters connected with religious worship in community schools and the religious education to be given in accordance with an agreed syllabus as the Authority may refer to it or as it may see fit.

(ii) The SACRE shall in particular advise on methods of teaching, the choice of materials and the provision of training for teachers.

(iii) The SACRE shall, on an application made by a headteacher of any County school after consultation with the governing body, consider whether it is appropriate for the requirement for Christian collective worship to apply in the case of that school, or in the case of any class or description of pupils at that school. The SACRE shall arrive at its decision and communicate it to the headteacher in accordance with the provisions of Section 394 of the Education Act of 1996.

(iv) The representative groups on the SACRE, other than that representing the Authority, may at any time require a review of any Agreed Syllabus for the time being adopted by the Authority.

(v) The SACRE shall each year publish a report on its proceedings and those of its representative groups. The report shall specify any matters on which the SACRE has given advice to the Authority and the reasons for offering the advice.

(vi) The SACRE shall take any action assigned to it by the Authority in relation to the consideration and disposal of any complaint concerning collective worship or religious education in compliance with Section 23 of the Education Reform Act 1988.

(f) 4 PROCEDURE

(i) The SACRE shall elect annually at its first meeting in the academic year a Chairman and a Vice Chairman from among its members by voting in accordance with clause 4 (ii).

(ii) On any question to be decided by the SACRE only the representative groups shall be entitled to vote, and each group shall have a single vote.

(iii) The SACRE shall regulate its own proceedings and may establish committees for specified purposes. Such committees may include persons who are not themselves members of the SACRE. In any matter which falls to be decided by the members of any particular category, the members of that category may regulate their own proceedings.

(iv) The SACRE shall determine the frequency of its own meetings so long as it meets on no fewer than two occasions in any academic year.

(v) The Clerk to the SACRE shall be the Chief Executive of the Authority or his/her representative.

(vi) The Chief Education Officer or his representative(s) shall be entitled to attend all meetings of the SACRE and of any committees it may establish and to speak but not to vote.

(vii) The costs of operating the SACRE and any committees it may establish shall be met by the Authority.