

## Individual Decision

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<b>Title of Report:</b>	<b>West Berkshire Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education – Group A Representation.</b>		
<b>Report to be considered by:</b>	<b>Cllr Graham Pask</b>	<b>on:</b>	<b>9 November 2006</b>
<b>Forward Plan Ref:</b>	<b>ID1332</b>		

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### **Purpose of Report:**

To recommend Ms Theresa McHugh as the Roman Catholic representative on the West Berkshire Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education.

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### **Recommended Action:**

To agree the appointment of Ms Theresa McHugh as the Roman Catholic representative on the West Berkshire Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education.

### **Reason for decision to be taken:**

Resignation of the previous representative

### **List of other options considered:**

None

### **Key background documentation:**

Education Act 1996

<b>Portfolio Member:</b>	Councillor Graham Pask
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### **Contact Officer Details**

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## Supporting Information

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### 1. Background

- 1.1 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.
- 1.2 The SACRE was established to advise the Local Authority on such matters connected with religious worship and advise on methods of teaching, the choice of materials used and the provision of training for teachers.

### 2. Nominations for membership of the West Berkshire SACRE

- 2.1 The Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education comprises four groups each with a single vote to use when voting is necessary.

The four committees are:

Group A: Representatives of Christian denominations other than the Church of England and of other religions	Group B: Church of England representatives
Group C: One representative from each of the following teacher associations: NUT, NAS/UWT, ATL, PAT, NAHT and ASCL	Group D: Representatives of the local authority

- 2.2 The Local Authority is responsible for appointing members to each of these four committees and this is usually achieved by seeking nominations from each area.
- 2.3 Members have taken the opportunity to consider the rationale for minority faith group representation taking into account that:
- “The 1996 Education Act says that group A should consist of ‘a group of persons to represent such Christian denominations and other religions and denominations of such religions as, in the opinion of the authority, will appropriately reflect the principal religious traditions in the area’; ... and ‘The number of representative members appointed ...to represent each denomination or religion required to be represented shall, as far as consistent with the efficient discharge of the group’s functions, reflect broadly the proportionate strength of that denomination or religion in the area.’”
- 2.4 The SACRE has representatives from the Free Church, Jewish and Sikh communities, but has vacancies in other religious groups.
- 2.5 In accordance with the SACRE constitution, the Executive Member for Children and Young People is requested to accept Ms Theresa McHugh as the Roman Catholic representative on the West Berkshire Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education.

## Appendices

None.

## Implications

<b>Policy:</b>	In accordance with Section 390 of the Education Act 1996 the SACRE requires representation from the Roman Catholic Church.
<b>Financial:</b>	None as a result of this report
<b>Personnel:</b>	None as a result of this report
<b>Legal:</b>	None as a result of this report
<b>Environmental:</b>	None as a result of this report
<b>Equalities:</b>	The Roman Catholic Church would have representation on the SACRE.
<b>Partnering:</b>	None as a result of this report
<b>Property:</b>	None as a result of this report
<b>Risk Management:</b>	None as a result of this report
<b>Community Safety:</b>	None as a result of this report

## Consultation Responses

<b>Members:</b>	
<b>Leader of Council:</b>	Cllr Graham Jones - emailed on the 12 October 2006 - no comments received to date
<b>Overview &amp; Scrutiny Commission Chairman:</b>	Cllr Jeff Brooks - emailed on the 12 October 2006 - no comments received to date
<b>Ward Members:</b>	None
<b>Opposition Spokesperson:</b>	Cllr Sally Hannon - emailed on the 12 October 2006 - supported the nomination
<b>Policy Development Commission Chairman:</b>	Cllr Gordon Lundie - emailed on the 12 October 2006 - no comments received to date
<b>Local Stakeholders:</b>	Jo Fageant, Adviser, the Diocese of Oxford. - emailed on the 12 October 2006
<b>Officers Consulted:</b>	Maxine Slade, School Improvement Adviser, School/Curriculum Quality - emailed on the 12 October 2006
<b>Trade Union:</b>	None