

Individual Decision

The attached report will be taken as an
Individual Portfolio Member Decision on:

01 June 2009

Ref:	Title	Portfolio Member(s)	Page No.
ID1733	West Berkshire Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education – Groups A and B Representation	Councillor Barbara Alexander	3 - 7

Individual Executive Member Decision

Title of Report:	West Berkshire Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education – Groups A and B Representation.
Report to be considered by:	Individual Executive Member Decision
Date on which Decision is to be taken:	01 st June 2009
Forward Plan Ref:	ID1733

Purpose of Report: To recommend Mrs Sarla Kakar as the Hindu representative and Mrs Margaret Blaine as a Church of England representative on the West Berkshire Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education.

Recommended Action: To agree the appointment of Mrs Sarla Kakar as the Hindu representative and Mrs Margaret Blaine as a Church of England representative on the West Berkshire Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education.

Reason for decision to be taken: To fill long-standing vacancies in the case of the Hindu and Church of England representation.

Key background documentation:

- Education Act 1996.

Portfolio Member Details	
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Implications

Policy:	In accordance with Section 390 of the Education Act 1996 the SACRE requires representations from the Hindu and Church of England Communities
Financial:	None as a result of this report
Personnel:	None as a result of this report
Legal/Procurement:	None as a result of this report
Environmental:	None as a result of this report
Partnering:	None as a result of this report
Property:	None as a result of this report
Risk Management:	None as a result of this report
Community Safety:	None as a result of this report
Equalities:	The Hindu and Church of England communities would have representation on the SACRE

Consultation Responses

Members:

Leader of Council:	Councillor Graham Jones - no comment
Overview & Scrutiny Commission Chairman:	Councillor Brian Bedwell - no comment
Policy Development Commission Chairman:	Councillor Irene Neill has no issue with the nominations.
Ward Members:	None
Opposition Spokesperson:	Councillor Alan Macro
Local Stakeholders:	Jo Fageant, Adviser, the Diocese of Oxford – supported both nominations. National Association of SACREs – supported the nomination of Mrs Sarla Kakar.
Officers Consulted:	Rita Vasa, School Improvement Partner – supported both nominations
Trade Union:	None

Is this item subject to call-in.	Yes: X	No: <input type="checkbox"/>
If not subject to call-in please put a cross in the appropriate box:		
The item is due to be referred to Council for final approval	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Delays in implementation could have serious financial implications for the Council	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Delays in implementation could compromise the Council's position	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Considered or reviewed by OSC or associated Task Groups within preceding 6 months	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Item is Urgent Key Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Supporting Information

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 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.

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 groups are:

Group A: Representatives of Christian denominations other than the Church of England, and of other religions	Group B: Four 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. 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 In Group A the SACRE has representatives from the Muslim, Sikh, Roman Catholic, Buddhist and Jewish communities, and two representatives from the Free Church communities but has vacancies in other religious groups.

- 2.5 In Group B the SACRE has two representatives nominated by the Church of England but currently has two vacancies.
- 2.6 In Group C the SACRE has representatives from the ATL, NAHT, NASUWT, and NUT Unions, but currently has no representation from PAT and ASCL.
- 2.6 In accordance with the SACRE constitution, the Portfolio Holder for Children and Young People is requested to accept Mrs Sarla Kakar as the Hindu representative, and Mrs Margaret Blaine as the Church of England representative on the West Berkshire Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education.

Appendices

There are no Appendices to this report.