

Mr Barrett, Cabinet Member for Education and Skills (and Deputy Leader)	Ref No: ES01 (19/20)
May 2019	Key Decision: No
Appointment to an Outside Body – Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education	Part I
Report by Director of Law and Assurance	Electoral Divisions: All
Summary	
<p>Outside bodies are external organisations, including formal or informal partnerships to which the County Council is a party, which have requested that the County Council appoints an Elected Member or a representative to them or to which the Council expects to make appointments.</p> <p>A change of Elected Member representative is proposed for the Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE), an outside body which the Cabinet Member for Education and Skills is responsible for making Member appointments to. The Cabinet Member will be asked to approve the revised membership.</p>	
West Sussex Plan: Policy Impact and Context	
<p>This proposal relates to the appointment of an Elected Member to the Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education. SACRE is a statutory committee whose job it is to advise the County Council, as Local Education Authority (LEA), on Religious Education (RE) and collective worship in schools. This aligns with the Best Start In Life priority within the West Sussex Plan.</p>	
Financial Impact	
None.	
Recommendations	
<p>That the Cabinet Member appoints Ms Kirsty Lord to SACRE, in place of Mr Bob Smytherman, until the end of the Council term (May 2021), following a request from the Liberal Democrat Group.</p>	

PROPOSAL

1. Background and Context

- 1.1 Outside bodies are external organisations and partnerships which have requested that the County Council appoints an Elected Member or a representative to them. Participation in outside bodies:
- Contributes to the County Council's strategic functions, priorities or community leadership roles.
 - Supports partnership and joint working.
 - Enables Members to gain and share knowledge and expertise.

- 1.2 The criteria for appointments to outside bodies as set out in the Constitution are:
 - That the interests of the County Council can be assisted by the making of the appointment or renewal of the appointment.
 - That the Member is able to devote the time needed to meet the expectations of the external body and the Council.
 - That, where the external body has a geographical limit to its functions, whether the Member's Division falls within or close to that area should be taken into consideration.
 - That the Member has the knowledge, skills or interest in the work of the organisation that may be required.
 - That the Member is prepared to provide such information on his or her participation in the work of the outside body as may be required.
- 1.3 All Members are eligible to be appointed as representatives of the County Council on outside bodies. Members appointed to outside bodies must respond to all reasonable requests for information about the work of the outside body and their participation in it.

2. Proposal Details

- 2.1 The Cabinet Member for Education and Skills is responsible for making Member appointments to outside bodies within the Education and Skills portfolio area. Following the election in May 2017 the Cabinet Member made appointments to the outside bodies in his portfolio area (Decision references ES01 (17/18), ES03 (17/18) and ES11 (17/18)).
- 2.2 Since Religious Education became a compulsory part of the National Curriculum in 1988 every Local Education Authority has been required to establish a SACRE. The SACRE monitors the provision and quality of RE taught according to the Agreed Syllabus adopted by the Local Authority. In partnership with the Local Authority the SACRE also considers whether any changes need to be made to the Agreed Syllabus or in the support offered to schools in the implementation of the Agreed Syllabus, to improve the quality of teaching and learning of RE.
- 2.3 A change of Elected Member representative is proposed for SACRE following a request from the Liberal Democrat Group. The Cabinet Member is asked to appoint Ms Kirsty Lord to SACRE in place of Mr Bob Smytherman for the remainder of the County Council term (to May 2021).

FACTORS TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT

3. Consultation

- 3.1 The Cabinet reviewed the list of outside bodies in June 2017 to ensure that the County Council continues to appoint to bodies that are relevant to the County Council and which are consistent with its priorities.

4. Financial (Revenue and Capital) and Resource Implications

- 4.1 There are no financial or resource implications.

5. Legal Implications

5.1 There are no legal implications.

6. Risk Assessment Implications and Mitigations

- 6.1 Members must consider the implications and responsibilities of being involved with outside bodies as they must:
- Continue to comply with the County Council's Code of Conduct when they are acting as a representative of the Council.
 - Comply with the Code of Conduct of the outside body they are appointed to if one exists.
 - Declare a personal interest in any business of the County Council where it relates to a body they are appointed to by the County Council.
- 6.2 All Members are recommended to make sure that when they take up their appointment with the outside body they have access to the key documents regulating the organisation such as its constitution or terms of reference to ensure they are aware of what the body can and cannot do, and receive a briefing on the body or their role within it if necessary.
- 6.3 There is a risk that appointments will not be made to all of the outside bodies which could hinder the County Council in furthering its interests and priorities, and not develop the external facing role of Members.

7. Other Options Considered (and reasons for not proposing)

7.1 The Cabinet Member may choose not to appoint to an outside body but should consider whether there are any implications arising for the County Council by not making an appointment.

8. Equality and Human Rights Assessment

8.1 This assessment is not required as the decision concerns an appointment to an outside body.

9. Social Value and Sustainability Assessment

9.1 Not applicable.

10. Crime and Disorder Reduction Assessment

10.1 None.

Contact Officer: Wendy Saunders, Democratic Services Officer
033022 22 553

Appendix A - List of Members appointed by the Cabinet Member to SACRE

Appendix A

List of Members appointed to SACRE by the Cabinet Member for Education and Skills

Outside Body	No of Appointments	Member Appointment
SACRE	8	Mr Richard Burrett Mrs Anne Jones Ms Kirsty Lord* Mr Viral Parikh Mrs Jacky Pendleton Mr Charles Petts Mr Brian Quinn Mr David Simmons Mr Bob Smytherman

* Denotes proposed appointment

Background papers

None