

OFFICER DECISION RECORD 1 FORM

This form should be used to record Officer Decisions in Excess of £100k (but below the key decision threshold), or where required by Financial, Contract or other Procedure Rules or following formal delegation from Cabinet or a Cabinet Member or a Council Committee.

Decision Reference No: e.g. Directorate/Ref No/Year - 1920034

BOX 1

DIRECTORATE:

Contact Name: Sarah Maxfield

DATE:05.11.19.

Tel. No.: 01302 736723

Subject Matter:

Appointment of New Members on to the Doncaster Council Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE) and confirmation of current membership.

BOX 2

DECISION TAKEN

- 1) To appoint the following representatives onto Doncaster Council's Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE):-
 - Father Dan Parkinson (Assistant Curate at Doncaster Minster – Church of England Representative)
 - Carole Cahm (Sheffield Synagogue - Christian representative)
 - Sally Faulkner (NASUWT, Sandringham Primary School, Teacher representative)
 - Tara Moxon (NEU, Rowena Academy, Teacher Representative)
 - Danielle Heath (NEU, Rowena Academy RE Lead, Teacher Representative); and
- 2) Reaffirm the current Membership of SACRE as detailed at Appendix 1.

BOX 3

REASON FOR THE DECISION

SACRE is the statutory body responsible for advising the local authority on Religious Education (RE) and collective worship and is composed of four groups which represent:

- Christian denominations and other religions (and their denominations)
- The Church of England
- Teacher Associations

- the Local Authority (Elected Members)

In order for a SACRE meeting to be quorate, there must be at least one Member from each of the above groups, and without this, no formal decisions can be taken.

The main function of SACRE is to agree and review the syllabus for teaching religious education in Doncaster schools. It must also produce an annual report of its work and consider any requests from a head teacher to be released from the requirement for collective worship to be broadly of a Christian character. Members of SACRE have responsibility for supporting and encouraging high standards in RE and collective worship across schools in the Borough.

There have been a number of occasions over the past two years where SACRE meetings have been inquorate due to inadequate representation from the four groups. Currently there are eight vacancies across these groups. Following a recent recruitment exercise with Teacher Associations, Church of England and other religions, a number of individuals have now been identified to fill these vacancies. The Education Act 1996 Section 392 (2) states that “before appointing a person to represent any religion, denomination or associations as a members of the council, the authority shall take all responsible steps to assure themselves that he is representative of the religion, denomination or associations put in question.” These assurances have been given for each of the individuals named below, e.g. from the Bishop of Doncaster, Sheffield Synagogue and Teachers Unions.

- Father Dan Parkinson (Assistant Curate at Doncaster Minster – Church of England Representative)
- Carole Cahm (Sheffield Synagogue - Christian representative)
- Sally Faulkner (NASUWT, Sandringham Primary School, Teacher representative)
- Tara Moxon (NEU, Rowena Academy, Teacher Representative)
- Danielle Heath (NEU, Rowena Academy RE Lead, Teacher Representative)

If the appointments are approved prior to its next meeting on 21 November, 2019 it would mean that the Committee would be able to achieve a quorum and therefore ratify any decisions made and move forward with the implementation and monitoring of the revised RE syllabus.

This decision also seeks to reaffirm the current membership of SACRE until the Autumn Term meeting of 2020 as this has not been reviewed for a number of years. At this point consideration can be given to reviewing the full membership and term of office of the SACRE Members.

BOX 4

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

- **Not approve the appointment of the five new representatives**

This is not felt to be a viable option as the meetings would continue to be inquorate and SACRE unable to effectively undertake its role.

BOX 5**LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

The Local Authority has a duty to establish a permanent body known as the Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE) in accordance with Chapter 3 of the Education Act 1996. The purpose of SACRE includes advising the Local Authority on matters connected with religious worship and education and to publish an annual report on the exercise of its functions.

The 1996 Act specifies particular groups of persons that are required to be appointed by the Authority as representative Members making up the Membership of SACRE, as identified in box 3 of this form.

Name: Neil Concannon **Signature:** [REDACTED] **Date:**14.11.19.

Signature of Assistant Director of Legal and Democratic Services (or representative)

BOX 6**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:**

There are no specific financial implications associated with these appointments. The responsibility of SACRE sits within the Learning Provision Service with any expenditure relating to SACRE managed as part of this budget.

Name: Stephen Boldry **Signature:** [REDACTED] **Date:** 14th November 2019

Signature of Chief Financial Officer and Assistant Director of Finance (or representative)

BOX 7**OTHER RELEVANT IMPLICATIONS**

There are no other significant regulations associated with this report

Name: _____ **Signature:** _____ **Date:** _____

Signature of Assistant Director (or representative)

ANY IMPLICATIONS SENT TO DEPARTMENTS SHOULD GENERALLY BE SUBMITTED AT LEAST 5 WORKING DAYS IN ADVANCE TO ENSURE THESE CAN BE GIVEN THE RELEVANT CONSIDERATION.

BOX 8**EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS:**

The composition of SACRE ensures that the majority of all major religious denominations across Doncaster are represented and can therefore contribute to the work of the Committee.

BOX 9**RISK IMPLICATIONS:**

If these appointments are not agreed there will be a heightened risk of future meetings being inquorate and reduction of the effectiveness of SACRE.

Unless the Membership of SACRE is in place, the Committee will not be able to fulfil its role effectively.

BOX 10**CONSULTATION**

Consultation has taken place with the Councillor Nuala Fennelly, Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Schools.

BOX 11**INFORMATION NOT FOR PUBLICATION**

Members are aware this is a public body therefore this ODR can be published in full. Signatures to be redacted.

Name: Sarah Corbett **Signature** [REDACTED] **Date:** 15th November 2019

Signature of FOI Lead Officer for service area where ODR originates

BOX 12**BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Please confirm if any Background Papers are included with this ODR NO

(If YES please list and submit these with this form)

**BOX 13
AUTHORISATION**

Name: Riana Nelson Signature: [REDACTED] Date: 15.11.19

Director of Learning, Opportunities and Skills

Does this decision require authorisation by the Chief Financial Officer or other Officer

NO

Consultation with Relevant Member(s)

Name: Councillor Nuala Fennelly

Signature: [REDACTED] Date: 18/10/2019

Designation: Cabinet Member for Children Young People and Schools

Declaration of Interest YES/NO

If YES please give details below:

PLEASE NOTE THIS FORM WILL BE PUBLISHED ON THE COUNCIL'S WEBSITE IN FULL UNLESS IT CONTAINS EXEMPT OR CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION.

Once completed a PDF copy of this form and any relevant background papers should be forwarded to Governance Services at Democratic.Services@doncaster.gov.uk who will arrange publication.

It is the responsibility of the decision taker to clearly identify any information that is confidential or exempt and should be redacted before publication.

SACRE MEMBERSHIP 2019/20

Group A: Christian Denominations (12 members) and such other religions and religious denominations as, in the authority's opinion, will appropriately reflect the principal religious traditions in the area.

1. Reverend Tom McCready Doncaster Interfaith
2. Mr R Iball, Methodist
3. Mrs P Kaur, Sikh
4. Ms S Norburn, Humanist (Co-opted Member)
5. Mr S Syed, Muslim
6. Mr B Teimoori, Baha'i
7. Lucy Saxton, Roman Catholic
8. Mary Sivaanbu, Hindu
9. Carole Cahm – Jewish
- 10. Vacancy - Baptist**
- 11. Vacancy - Buddhist**
- 12. Vacancy - Doncaster Society of Friends**

Group B: The Church of England (4 Members)

1. Ms J Crowther
2. Alec Depledge
3. Father Dan Parkinson
- 4. Vacancy**

Group C: Teacher Associations (5 Members)

1. Ms A Nicolson, National Union of Teachers
2. Mr T Griffiths, National Association of Headteachers
3. Ms Sally Faulkner, NASUWT
4. Ms Tara Moxon, NEU
5. Ms Danielle Heath, NEU

Group D: The Local Authority (4 Members) *

1. Councillor John Gilliver
2. Councillor Kevin Rodgers
3. Councillor Derek Smith
4. Councillor Jonathan Wood

*Local authority Members are appointed annually by Doncaster Council to reflect the political make-up of the Council.