

## **Report to the Cabinet**

Meeting to be held on Thursday, 3 December 2020

### **Report of the Head of Legal and Democratic Services**

#### **Part I**

Electoral Division affected:  
(All Divisions);

### **Lancashire Religious Education Agreed Syllabus Conference**

(Appendix 'A' refers)

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#### **Executive Summary**

The appointment of an Agreed Syllabus Conference to commence on the 16 December 2020 for the purpose of reviewing the Lancashire Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education.

#### **Recommendation**

Cabinet is asked to approve that an Agreed Syllabus Conference be convened and that any person who sits on the representative groups on the Lancashire Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education, excluding the Co-opted Members, can be appointed as members of the Agreed Syllabus Conference.

#### **Background and Advice**

By law, every local education authority is required to have a Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education. The purpose of the Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education is to advise and support the provision of religious education and collective worship in schools and to consider any requests for determinations.

The Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education is also responsible for forming an Agreed Syllabus Conference every 5 years to set the religious education syllabus for schools. It is a statutory requirement that the Authority should convene an Agreed Syllabus Conference for the purpose of reviewing the Religious Education syllabus. The syllabus sets out what should be taught to pupils in all key stages and the standards expected of them at the end of each key stage. The syllabus must be reviewed within five years from the date on which it was adopted. The current Lancashire Agreed Syllabus of Religious Education was last reviewed in November 2015 and adopted in 2016, and is therefore now due for review. It is proposed that

the Authority convenes an Agreed Syllabus Conference to produce an agreed syllabus for Religious Education. It is proposed that the first meeting of the Agreed Syllabus Conference will be held on 16 December 2020.

The composition of the Conference is very similar to that of the Lancashire Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education with committees of persons representing the same four groups that constitute the representative groups on the Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education, namely:-

- (a) Such Christian and other Religious Denominations as, in the opinion of the Authority, would appropriately reflect the principal religious traditions in the area;
- (b) The Church of England;
- (c) Such Associations, representing teachers as, in the opinion of the Authority, ought having had regard to the circumstances of the area be represented; and
- (d) The Authority.

The current membership of the Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education is set out at Appendix 'A'. There is however, unlike the Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education, no provision for Co-opted Members on the syllabus conference. The conference may ask for contributions and advice from anyone who will be useful in reviewing the syllabus.

### **Consultations**

The Lancashire Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education has been consulted.

### **Implications:**

This item has the following implications, as indicated:

### **Risk management**

Schedule 31 of The Education Act 1996 requires the Authority to convene a conference to reconsider the agreed syllabus for Religious Education by bringing together an Agreed Syllabus Conference. Failure to do so would mean that the Authority was in breach of the requirement and the Secretary of State could intervene to take over that role and appoint a body of persons to prepare the syllabus.

## List of Background Papers

Paper	Date	Contact/Tel
Lancashire Religious Education Agreed Syllabus Conference	5 November 2015	Alison Lloyd/01257 516166
Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate		
N/A		