

Report to the Cabinet

Meeting to be held on Thursday, 16 January 2020

Report of the Head of Service - Legal and Democratic Services

Part I

Electoral Division affected:
(All Divisions);

Lancashire Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education - Constitution and Terms of Reference

(Appendix 'A' refers)

Contact for further information:

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Executive Summary

The Lancashire Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education was first established in 1997. The Constitution and Terms of Reference for the Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education have been in existence since then without amendment. This report proposes to update the Constitution and Terms of Reference to reflect the current state of the Lancashire Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education.

Recommendation

Cabinet is asked to approve the revised Constitution and Terms of Reference for the Lancashire Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education as set out in Appendix 'A'.

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.

The Lancashire Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education is made up of four groups prescribed by statute, these are:

- Christian and other Religious Groups reflecting the Principal Religious Traditions in the area
- The Church of England
- Associations representing teachers
- The Local Authority representatives

The current Constitution and Terms of Reference has been in place since the formation of the Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education in 1997. Amendments and suggested improvements have been made to the document by the Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education's Quality and Standards Sub Committee and endorsed by the Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education itself. By updating the Terms of Reference and Constitution it is hoped to bring the document up to date to reflect the current state of the Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (Appendix 'A').

A number of changes have been made including the following:

- The number of representatives for Associations representing Teachers amended from 5 to 4 due to the merger of two associations.
- Guidance provided on policy for non-attendance of members.
- Detailed information provided on the nature of Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education meetings.
- Guidance on the Agreed Syllabus.

Consultations

The Lancashire Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education was consulted at its meeting on 7 October 2019 and agreed the proposed amendments to the Terms of Reference and Constitution.

Implications:

This item has the following implications, as indicated:

Risk management

No significant risks have been identified in relation to the proposals contained within this report.

List of Background Papers

Paper	Date	Contact/Tel
None		
Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate		
N/A		