

DECISION-MAKER:	CABINET
SUBJECT:	SACRE – REVIEW OF CONSTITUTION
DATE OF DECISION:	16 JANUARY 2024
REPORT OF:	COUNCILLOR WINNING CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN AND LEARNING

<u>CONTACT DETAILS</u>			
Executive Director	Title	Executive Director – Wellbeing (Children and Learning)	
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STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY

Not applicable

BRIEF SUMMARY

The Council is required to consult Southampton Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE) annually on a review of the SACRE constitution and receive any recommended changes put forward following that consultation alongside its own review of the makeup of SACRE and how it operates.

The Council has statutory responsibility for membership of SACRE and approval of its constitution.
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RECOMMENDATIONS:

	(i)	Recommendation to confirm membership status of Southampton City Mission in Group A
	(ii)	Subsequent to the decision of recommendation (i) above to approve the revised SACRE constitution attached at Appendix 1

REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

1.	Another member of Group A has challenged the inclusion of Southampton City Mission (SCM) as member of Group A under “Christian Denominations” on the basis that this may lead to an over-representation/inequality of Christian Denominations within SACRE.
2.	There were no responses from any members of SACRE to this challenge, either positive or negative, and a decision from Cabinet is sought on their ongoing membership accordingly.
3.	The test for Group A is ‘a member that represents Christian denominations and other religions and their denominations who will appropriately reflect the

	principal religious traditions in the area.’ This can include an organisation representing multiple or collective recognised Christian denominations.
4.	SCM’s position is that it does not represent the individual churches that form part of SCM. They are a charitable organisation that is of Christian denomination. The work carried out in schools by SCM is to support the delivery of religious education. The charitable objects include the advancement of education. The staff and volunteers who work with schools come from a broad range of denominations of Christianity
5.	Data available from the school information systems attached at Appendix 2 indicates that the parents of 31,578 children took part in the census: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10,073 had no religion (31.9%) • 10,663 are of Christian denomination (33.7%) • 5,298 religions other than Christianity (16.8%)
6.	The SACRE constitution document attached at Appendix 1 has been significantly revised to align with the format recommended in guidance from the National Association of Standing Advisory Councils for Religious Education (NASACRE)
7.	The key changes to the constitution are: Paragraph 2.6 – to review the SACRE constitution every four years. There is no change to the annual review of membership. Paragraph 3.1.3 – the ability to nominate a standing substitute member.
8.	Subject to the decision of the Cabinet on recommendation (i) SACRE members unanimously supported adoption the revised constitution without any other changes to the membership.
ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED	
9.	Options for consideration are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) SCM remain in Group A as currently listed (full membership) – no change. b) SCM become co-opted members. <p>Option a) provides a right to vote in Group A. Option b) does not.</p>
DETAIL (Including consultation carried out)	
10.	A task and finish group comprising of the Chair of SACRE, the Humanist member of SACRE and the report author met to consider the current constitution and members. This included reviewing the Southampton School’s information data and the relevant extract from the National Census 2021
11.	The National Census data and Southampton School’s Information together with the revised constitution was presented to the SACRE meeting on 6 th November 2023.
12.	In preparing the revised constitution consideration was given to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the Education Act 1996. • DfE guidance (September 2023) following the decision in <i>Bowen v Kent County Council</i>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the guidance on constitution from NASACRE; the constitution document for Hampshire SACRE which was reviewed in 2023. the constitution document for Cambridgeshire SACRE
RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS	
<u>Capital/Revenue</u>	
13.	Not applicable
<u>Property/Other</u>	
14.	Not applicable
LEGAL IMPLICATIONS	
<u>Statutory power to undertake proposals in the report:</u>	
15.	Southampton SACRE has been established pursuant to Section 309 Education 1996 as amended.
16.	<p>Section 390(4) of the Education Act 1996 sets out the representative groups required to be appointed by Southampton City Council.</p> <p>Section 390(4)(a) states “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”.</p>
<u>Other Legal Implications:</u>	
17.	The report and proposed Constitution are fully compliant with the requirements of the Equality Act 2010 and the Human Rights Act 1998.
RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS	
18.	Not applicable
POLICY FRAMEWORK IMPLICATIONS	
19.	<p>The work of SACRE meets a statutory duty to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> review of the Locally Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education (not less than every five years). undertake monitoring across schools to improve outcomes for children in respect of school’s statutory obligations for religious education and collective worship. provide advice and guidance to schools on faith matters including the teaching of statutory relationships guidance from a faith perspective. provide advice to Southampton City Council on matters connected to religious education and collective worship in maintained schools to determine applications pursuant to sections 394 and 395 of the Education Act 1996

KEY DECISION?	Yes/No
WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED:	All

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices

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| 1. | Revised Southampton SACRE constitution |
| 2. | Data from Southampton Schools Information System |

Documents In Members' Rooms

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| 1. | None |
| 2. | |

Equality Impact Assessment

Do the implications/subject of the report require an Equality and Safety Impact Assessment (ESIA) to be carried out.	Yes
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Data Protection Impact Assessment

Do the implications/subject of the report require a Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) to be carried out.	No
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Other Background Documents

Other Background documents available for inspection at:

Title of Background Paper(s)	Relevant Paragraph of the Access to Information Procedure Rules / Schedule 12A allowing document to be Exempt/Confidential (if applicable)
1. Appendix 1 "Proposed SACRE Constitution 2023-24"	
2. Appendix 2 Schools Information Service Data (September 2023)	