

CAERPHILLY COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO: STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

DATE: 16TH OCTOBER 2017

SUBJECT: SACRE MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

A PURPOSE OF REPORT

To discuss the current membership of Caerphilly SACRE and to inform SACRE of recent membership requests received.

B BACKGROUND

All Local Authorities have a statutory duty to constitute a SACRE within their local area.

Representation on SACRE is required as follows:

- (i) Such Christian and other religious denominations as, in the opinion of the Local Authority, will appropriately reflect the principal religious traditions in the area
- (ii) Associations representing teachers
- (iii) The Local Authority

The current arrangements for Caerphilly SACRE are as follows:

- **Faith Group Representatives (Committee A)**
There have been no recent changes to membership and all positions are currently filled.
- **Teacher Association Representatives (Committee B)**
There are two vacancies in this group arising from the recent resignations of Ms Bethan Davies (UCAC) and Mrs Helen Marsh (ASCL).
- **Local Authority Elected Members (Committee C)**
Councillor John Ridgewell replaced retired Member Mr David Carter in June 2017 and all positions are currently filled.
- **Co-opted positions (without voting rights)**
There are two co-opted places within SACRE. The appointments are made at the discretion of the Committee. The first position is currently vacant but is reserved for a representative from Race Equality First or an equivalent organisation (to address the lack of representation from non-Christian religious communities within the faith group section of SACRE). The second position is currently filled by a teacher representative.

Membership Requests

SACRE have recently received two requests for membership – one from Mr Michael Gray (a Methodist Church member and lay preacher) and Mr Ken Chamberlain (of the British Humanist Association). One of the applicants does meet the criteria for a faith group representative but there are no vacancies at this time. The other applicant does not meet the criteria for any of the main committee groups, and consequently can only be considered for a co-opted position.

As indicated above there are no faith group vacancies and the current co-opted vacancy is reserved. Consequently it is not possible for the Committee to formally consider the applications at this time.

Members are asked to note that any vacancies will be subject to a competitive process. Therefore, both interests will be held on file until a suitable vacancy arises and the interested parties will then be advised accordingly.

It should be noted that any proposed changes to the composition of SACRE would require a report to Full Council.

C RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That SACRE note the details of the current membership.
2. That the Clerk to SACRE contacts the appropriate people or organisations to ensure the vacant places for the main committee groups are filled.
3. That the Clerk to SACRE responds to the membership requests from Mr Gray and Mr Chamberlain formally acknowledging their requests and confirming that they will be retained on file pending a suitable vacancy arising which will be filled via a competitive process.

D BACKGROUND PAPERS

Appendix 1 Caerphilly SACRE Membership as of October 2017