

Report

Report to:	Executive Committee
Date of Meeting:	29 June 2022
Report by:	Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources) Executive Director (Education Resources)

Subject:	Representation on the Education Resources Committee
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1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ◆ advise on the arrangements for the appointment of representatives other than Councillors to serve on the Education Resources Committee.

2. Recommendation(s)

2.1. The Committee is asked to approve the following recommendation(s):-

- (1) that the proposals outlined in paragraph 4 to obtain external representation on the Education Resources Committee be actioned:
 - ◆ 2 teacher representatives
 - ◆ 2 parent/carer representatives
 - ◆ 3 church/religious representatives
- (2) that the appointments of Mrs Coulter and Mr Mulligan as the nominated religious representatives from the Church of Scotland and the Roman Catholic Church respectively, be confirmed; and
- (3) that the current appointments of the remaining external representation on the Education Resources Committee be extended until new appointments are confirmed.

3. Background

3.1. A local authority, when establishing an Education Resources Committee, is required to invite representatives from Church organisations to act as religious representatives on the Education Resources Committee.

3.2. The Education Resources Committee, at its meeting held on 1 July 2003, approved arrangements for the appointment of representatives to serve on the Education Resources Committee.

4. Proposals

4.1. It is proposed that steps be taken in line with the arrangements established in 2003 to obtain external representation on the Education Resources Committee as follows:-

- ◆ 2 teacher representatives
- ◆ 2 parent/carer representatives
- ◆ 3 Church/religious representatives

4.2 Church/Religious Representatives

In terms of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, an education authority must appoint:-

- ◆ a representative from the Church of Scotland
- ◆ a representative of the Roman Catholic Church
- ◆ a third religious representative having regard to:-
 - ◆ representation from the churches referred to above
 - ◆ the comparative strength within their area of all the churches and denominational bodies having duly constituted charges or other regularly appointed places of worship there

The Church of Scotland have confirmed that they would wish Mrs Gillian Coulter to continue to serve as the religious adviser and the Roman Catholic Church have confirmed that they would wish Mr John Mulligan to continue to serve as religious adviser on the Education Resources Committee. As there is no specified method detailed in the appropriate legislation for selecting a third religious representative to serve on the Education Resources Committee, it is proposed that an advertisement, as has been the case in previous years, be placed in local newspapers requesting nominations for a person interested in the promotion of religious and moral education. Should there be more than one nomination at the closure of the nomination period, it is proposed that the Executive Director (Education Resources), in consultation with the Chair of the Education Resources Committee and the Education Operations Manager, interview the nominees who have expressed an interest in being a member of the Education Resources Committee.

4.3 Teacher Representatives

It is proposed that two teacher representatives be nominated through a nomination process on the following basis:-

- ◆ that all teachers permanently employed in educational establishments under the management of the Council and registered with the General Teaching Council would be eligible for nomination and be entitled to vote for two candidates
- ◆ that any nomination form would require to be signed by the nominee and a witness to take part in the election process. A statement of support from each nominee should accompany the nomination and would be circulated to everyone entitled to vote
- ◆ notice of the ballot would be advertised in all schools in South Lanarkshire and copies of the notice would be sent to the relevant Trade Unions and posted via social media
- ◆ the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources) to make arrangements to issue ballot papers to all persons entitled to vote through the head teacher of each educational establishment. Ballot papers would be returned to the Head of Administration and Legal Services through head teachers.
- ◆ the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources) would arrange the count and report the result of the election process to the Council, giving the name of each candidate and the number of votes cast for each candidate.

4.4 **Parent/Carer Representation**

It is proposed that two parent/carers be nominated, through a selection process, from Parent Councils. This would be done on the following basis:-

- ◆ the Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources) would write to the Chairs of all Parent Councils asking that they draw to the attention of their Parent Council that nominations are being invited for 2 elected parent/carers to serve on the Education Resources Committee of the Council
- ◆ each Parent Council within the authority could nominate one member provided that the nomination was proposed and agreed at a formal meeting of the Parent Council
- ◆ each nominee be invited to provide a statement of support

At the closure of the nomination period, it is proposed that the Executive Director (Education Resources), in consultation with the Chair of the Education Resources Committee and the Education Operations Manager interview a shortlist of up to 6 nominees and recommend the appointment of two parent/carers to the Education Resources Committee.

- 4.5 It is recommended that the appointments of Mrs Coulter and Mr John Mulligan as religious representatives from the Church of Scotland and the Roman Catholic Church respectively, be confirmed and that the current appointments of the remaining external representation on the Education Resources Committee be extended until new appointments are confirmed.

5. **Employee Implications**

- 5.1. There are no major personnel implications. However, it should be noted that the appointment of 2 Teacher representatives will mean that appropriate cover arrangements when meetings take place will be required.

6. **Financial Implications**

- 6.1. The appointment of representatives to serve on the Education Resources Committee can be met from within existing resources.

7. **Other Implications**

- 7.1. There are no risks associated with this report.
- 7.2. There are no sustainability issues in connection with the recommendations contained within this report.

8. **Equality Impact Assessment and Consultation Arrangements**

- 8.1. This report does not introduce a new policy, function or strategy or recommend a change to an existing policy, function or strategy and therefore no impact assessment is required.
- 8.2. Consultation has taken place with the appropriate Church organisations and the trade unions and further consultation will take place on selection procedures.

Paul Manning

Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources)

Tony McDaid
Executive Director (Education Resources)

1 June 2022

Link(s) to Council Values/Vision/Priorities
Learning in the Community

Previous References

- ◆ Education Resources Committee – 26 June 2012

List of Background Papers

- ◆ Correspondence with Diocese of Motherwell – May 2022
- ◆ Correspondence with Church of Scotland –May 2022

Contact for Further Information

If you would like to inspect the background papers or want further information, please contact:-

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