

# Report

Report to:	<b>Executive Committee</b>
Date of Meeting:	<b>11 October 2023</b>
Report by:	<b>Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources) Executive Director (Education Resources)</b>

Subject:	<b>Religious Representation on the Education Resources Committee</b>
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## 1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ♦ provide an update on the current position regarding the appointment of a third church/religious representative to serve on the Education Resources Committee

## 2. Recommendation(s)

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

- (1) that it be noted that it had not been possible to appoint a third church/religious representative to the Education Resources Committee; and
- (2) that the Committee continue to operate with the 2 confirmed religious representatives from the Church of Scotland and the Roman Catholic Church.

## 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.

## 4 Church/Religious Representatives

4.1 In terms of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, an education authority is required to 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

4.2 Following the local government elections in May 2022, the Church of Scotland confirmed Mrs Gillian Coulter as a religious adviser on the Education Resources Committee and the Roman Catholic Church confirmed that it would wish Mr John Mulligan to serve as religious adviser on the Education Resources Committee. In June 2022, the Committee gave approval for appointments of some external

representatives, including the third church/religious representative, on the Education Resources Committee to be extended until new appointments were confirmed. However, this was as an interim measure and the third religious representative for the period 2017 to 2022 had intimated their intention to stand down from the position.

- 4.3 As there was no specified method detailed in the appropriate legislation for selecting a third religious representative to serve on the Education Resources Committee, an advertisement, as has been the case in previous years, was placed in local newspapers in July 2022 requesting nominations for a person interested in the promotion of religious and moral education. In response, 2 nominations were received, however, 1 nominee subsequently withdrew their nomination and the remaining nominee did not pursue their interest in the appointment. As a result, an advertisement was placed in local newspapers for the second time in August 2023 requesting expressions of interest to serve as the third religious representative on the Education Resources Committee. However, after the closing date, no nominations or expressions of interest had been received.
- 4.4 In the absence of interest from parties to serve as the third religious representative on the Committee and as the extension of the appointment of the representative for the period 2017 to 2022 was only ever intended as an interim measure until a new appointment was confirmed, following advice from Legal Services, it is proposed that the Committee continues to operate with the 2 confirmed religious/church representatives from the Church of Scotland and the Roman Catholic Church.

## **5 Employee Implications**

- 5.1 There are no employee implications as a result of the information contained in this report.

## **6 Financial Implications**

- 6.1 There are no financial implications as a result of the information contained in this report.

## **7 Climate Change, Sustainability and Environmental Implications**

- 7.1 There are no climate change, sustainability or environmental implications associated with this report.

## **8 Other Implications**

- 8.1 There are no other implications associated with this report.

## **9 Equality Impact Assessment and Consultation Arrangements**

- 9.1 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.

**Paul Manning**

**Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources)**

**Carol McKenzie**

**Executive Director (Education Resources)**

26 September 2023

**Link(s) to Council Values/Priorities/Outcomes**

- ◆ Accountable, effective, efficient, and transparent

**Previous References**

- ◆ Executive Committee – 29 June 2022

**List of Background Papers**

- ◆ None

**Contact for Further Information**

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

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