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Northumberland County Council

Your ref:

Our ref:

Enquiries to: Rebecca Little

Email: Rebecca.Little@northumberland.gov.uk

Tel direct: 01670 622611

Date: Tuesday, 29 March 2022

Dear Sir or Madam,

Your attendance is requested at **VIRTUAL** meeting of the **STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (SACRE) – AGREED SYLLABUS CONFERENCE ONLY** to be held on **WEDNESDAY, 6 APRIL 2022 at 4.00 PM.**

Yours faithfully

Daljit Lally
Chief Executive

To Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE) members as follows:-

Any member of the press or public may view the proceedings of this meeting live on our YouTube channel at <https://www.youtube.com/NorthumberlandTV>. Members of the press and public may tweet, blog etc during the live broadcast as they would be able to during a regular Committee meeting.



Daljit Lally, Chief Executive
County Hall, Morpeth, Northumberland, NE61 2EF
T: 0345 600 6400
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AGENDA

PART I

It is expected that the matters included in this part of the agenda will be dealt with in public.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

2. MINUTES

(Pages 1
- 4)

Minutes of the meeting of the Northumberland Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE) – Agreed Syllabus Conference, held on 2 February 2022 as circulated, to be confirmed as a true record, and signed by the Chair.

3. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

Unless already entered in the Council's Register of Members' interests, members are required to disclose any personal interest, (which includes any disclosable pecuniary interest), they may have in any of the items included on the agenda for the meeting in accordance with the Code of Conduct adopted by the Council on 4 July 2012, and are reminded that if they have any personal interests of a prejudicial nature (as defined under paragraph 17 of the Code of Conduct) they must not participate in any discussion or vote on the matter and must leave the room.

N.B. Any member needing clarification must contact the Legal Services Manager, on 01670 623324. Please refer to the guidance on disclosures at the rear of this agenda letter.

4. AGREED SYLLABUS

5. URGENT BUSINESS (IF ANY)

To consider such other business as, in the opinion of the Chair, should, by reason of special circumstances, be considered as a matter of urgency.

IF YOU HAVE AN INTEREST AT THIS MEETING, PLEASE:

- Declare it and give details of its nature before the matter is discussion or as soon as it becomes apparent to you.
- Complete this sheet and pass it to the Democratic Services Officer.

Name (please print):
Meeting:
Date:
Item to which your interest relates:
Nature of Registerable Personal Interest i.e either disclosable pecuniary interest (as defined by Annex 2 to Code of Conduct or other interest (as defined by Annex 3 to Code of Conduct) (please give details):
Nature of Non-registerable Personal Interest (please give details):
Are you intending to withdraw from the meeting?

1. Registerable Personal Interests – You may have a Registerable Personal Interest if the issue being discussed in the meeting:

a) relates to any Disclosable Pecuniary Interest (as defined by Annex 1 to the Code of Conduct); or

b) any other interest (as defined by Annex 2 to the Code of Conduct)

The following interests are Disclosable Pecuniary Interests if they are an interest of either you or your spouse or civil partner:

(1) Employment, Office, Companies, Profession or vocation; (2) Sponsorship; (3) Contracts with the Council; (4) Land in the County; (5) Licences in the County; (6) Corporate Tenancies with the Council; or (7) Securities - interests in Companies trading with the Council.

The following are other Registerable Personal Interests:

(1) any body of which you are a member (or in a position of general control or management) to which you are appointed or nominated by the Council; (2) any body which (i) exercises functions of a public nature or (ii) has charitable purposes or (iii) one of whose principal purpose includes the influence of public opinion or policy (including any political party or trade union) of which you are a member (or in a position of general control or management); or (3) any person from whom you have received within the previous three years a gift or hospitality with an estimated value of more than £50 which is attributable to your position as an elected or co-opted member of the Council.

2. Non-registerable personal interests - You may have a non-registerable personal interest when you attend a meeting of the Council or Cabinet, or one of their committees or sub-committees, and you are, or ought reasonably to be, aware that a decision in relation to an item of business which is to be transacted might reasonably be regarded as affecting your well being or financial position, or the well being or financial position of a person described below to a greater extent than most inhabitants of the area affected by the decision.

The persons referred to above are: (a) a member of your family; (b) any person with whom you have a close association; or (c) in relation to persons described in (a) and (b), their employer, any firm in which they are a partner, or company of which they are a director or shareholder.

3. Non-participation in Council Business

When you attend a meeting of the Council or Cabinet, or one of their committees or sub-committees, and you are aware that the criteria set out below are satisfied in relation to any matter to be considered, or being considered at that meeting, you must : (a) Declare that fact to the meeting; (b) Not participate (or further participate) in any discussion of the matter at the meeting; (c) Not participate in any vote (or further vote) taken on the matter at the meeting; and (d) Leave the room whilst the matter is being discussed.

The criteria for the purposes of the above paragraph are that: (a) You have a registerable or non-registerable personal interest in the matter which is such that a member of the public knowing the relevant facts would reasonably think it so significant that it is likely to prejudice your judgement of the public interest; **and either** (b) the matter will affect the financial position of yourself or one of the persons or bodies referred to above or in any of your register entries; **or** (c) the matter concerns a request for any permission, licence, consent or registration sought by yourself or any of the persons referred to above or in any of your register entries.

This guidance is not a complete statement of the rules on declaration of interests which are contained in the Members' Code of Conduct. If in any doubt, please consult the Monitoring Officer or relevant Democratic Services Officer before the meeting.

NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY COUNCIL

AGREED SYLLABUS CONFERENCE

At a meeting of the **Agreed Syllabus Conference** held in Meeting Space, Block 1, Floor 2, County Hall, Morpeth, Northumberland, NE61 2EF on Wednesday, 2 February 2022 at 5:00 p.m.

PRESENT

C. Weir
In the Chair

COUNCILLORS

L. Bowman

N. Morphet

TEACHERS ASSOCIATIONS/UNIONS REPRESENTATIVES

A. Duffield

CHURCH OF ENGLAND REPRESENTATIVES

C. Hudson

REPRESENTATIVES OF OTHER CHURCHES & FAITHS

J. Miller
T. Marley
D. Van-Der-Velde

CO-OPTED REPRESENTATIVES

S. Dearlove

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE

D. Cookson

Commissioner for Secondary
Education

R. Little

Assistant Democratic Services
Officer

There was one observer present.

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Councillor Renner-Thompson, Councillor Thorne, J. Cousin, B. Rasa and P. Rusby.

2. **MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF AGREED SYLLABUS CONFERENCE HELD ON 14 JULY 2021.**

T. Marley stated that he had given apologies for the last meeting.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Agreed Syllabus Conference held on Wednesday, 8 December 2021, as circulated, be confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chair.

3. **SHORTLIST OF AGREED SYLLABUS OPTIONS**

C. Weir – RE consultant, explained that during the last meeting copies of the potential syllabuses were not available and that copies were taken away and digested after the meeting. All committee groups had agreed with the officer's recommendation of RE Today syllabus B.

RE Today had been contacted regarding questions submitted from the committee, potential changes and comments made from committee A, responses included:

- It would not be possible to edit the "AIM" from Model B, as changing the aim would have a substantial impact on the rest of the document.
- A Foreword and an Introduction would need to be submitted to RE Today along with Northumberland photos. RE Today would provide updated Census data for inclusion in the syllabus.
- RE Today had suggested that Localised Units would be acceptable, but SACRE members would need to draft these.
- An online copy would be circulated for members to view the syllabus.
- Changes could be requested if any inaccuracies were found, however there was no guarantee that all suggested changes could be resolved.
- The Model Syllabus did not include any Key Stage 4 teaching units or suggestions as standard as the syllabus recommended following a GCSE course, but SACRE members could adapt items from the previous syllabus.

Following questions from members, the following information and comments were provided:

- If members were to provide localised units, then RE Today would require the units to add to the syllabus pack to be printed off together, which could delay printing.
- Members had commented on the Model B syllabus saying that it made a point of defining people by their religion e.g. Christians, Muslims etc. Members explained that they would not like to be defined by their religion.
- Model B syllabus would be a positive challenge for teachers and would be a significant leap from the current syllabus.
- The proposed syllabus could be completed by April, depending on whether committee members wished to add localised units.

D. Cookson suggested calling an extraordinary meeting of the Agreed Syllabus Conference so members could review the entire syllabus before making the final decision to adopt it. Members would also have the opportunity to input on potential local units to include in the syllabus. D. Cookson also discussed which schools this syllabus would be for; it was agreed that all Locally Maintained schools would be provided for and D. Cookson would liaise with Academy Schools in Northumberland to understand if they required a new RE syllabus.

RESOLVED that members were in agreement to pursue Model B.

CHAIR: _____

DATE: _____

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