

Report

Council



Part 1

Date: 24 July 2018

Subject **Appointments**

Purpose To agree the appointment of Council nominees to committees and outside bodies.

Author Democracy and Communication Manager

Ward General

Summary In accordance with its terms of reference within the Constitution, Council is responsible for appointing the members of Council Committees, and the Council's representatives on outside bodies. The current vacancies and nominations received are set out in the attached report.

Proposal **Council is asked to**

- i) **receive and approve the nominations for representatives, as listed in the report.**
- ii) **approve the recommendation of Newport's Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education to appoint a Humanist representative to that group (see Appendix 1).**

Action by Democracy and Communication Manager

Timetable Immediate

This report was prepared after consultation with:

- Council Business Managers
- Head of Law and Regulation

Background

In accordance with its terms of reference within the Constitution, Council is responsible for appointing the members of Council Committees, and the Council's representatives on outside bodies. The current vacancies and nominations received are set out below.

Any vacant appointments / nominations received after the publication of this report, will be announced at the Council meeting by the appropriate Business Manager or Group Leader.

Internal Appointments

Committee	No. of Vacancies / Replacements	Nominations Received
Planning Committee	1 replacement	Cllr Christine Jenkins to replace Cllr Malcolm Linton
Democratic Services Committee	1 replacement	Cllr Laura Lacey to replace Cllr Jane Mudd
Performance Scrutiny Committee – People	1 replacement	Cllr Rehmaan Hayat to replace Cllr Laura Lacey
Performance Scrutiny Committee – Place and Corporate	1 replacement	Cllr Ibrahim Hayat to replace Cllr Laura Lacey
Performance Scrutiny Committee – Partnerships	1 replacement	Cllr Jason Hughes to replace Cllr Graham Berry
Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee	1 replacement	Cllr Graham Berry to replace Jason Hughes
Standards Committee	1 vacancy	Dr Paul Worthington to be appointed as co-opted member
Welsh Language Champion	1 vacancy	Cllr Jason Hughes

Appointments to External Organisations

Organisation	No. of Vacancies / Replacements	Nominations Received
EAS Audit and Risk Assurance Committee	1 replacement	Cllr Deb Davies to replace Cllr David Mayer

Governing Body Appointments

Governing Body	No. of Vacancies / Re-appointments	Nominations Received
Gaer Primary	2 reappointments	Cllr Debbie Wilcox and Cllr Mark Whitcutt
Kimberley Nursery	1 reappointment	Anne Iles

	1 vacancy	Cllr Paul Cockeram
Maesglas Primary	1 reappointment	Cllr Stephen Marshall
Jubilee Park Primary	1 vacancy	Cllr Rehmaan Hayat
Llanwern High	1 vacancy	Katy Rees
Rogerstone Primary	1 vacancy	Chris Lacey
St Mary's RC Primary	1 vacancy	TBC
Ysgol Bryn Derw	1 vacancy	Anne Drewett

Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education

In addition to the usual appointments, Council is also asked to approve the recommendation of the local Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education to appoint a Humanist representative to Committee A (faith groups) of SACRE. Attached at Appendix 1 is the submission from Newport SACRE requesting this change.

Proposal

Council is asked to

- i) **receive and approve the nominations for representatives, as listed in the report.**
- ii) **approve the recommendation of Newport's Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education to appoint a Humanist representative to that group (see Appendix 1).**

Comments of Chief Financial Officer

There are no financial implications directly arising from this report.

Comments of Monitoring Officer

The appointment of individuals to serve on outside bodies is a Local Choice function under the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Functions and Responsibilities) (Wales) Regulations 2007. The Council has determined that responsibility for this function shall rest with Full Council unless delegated by the Council.

The new Welsh Government guidance provides that humanists (and other non-religious groups) can be appointed to SACRE as full voting members, provided the Council considers that their views are analogous to religious beliefs and that their views are reflective and representative of the wider community. SACRE have considered the request from the Humanist Association and are recommending that the current membership and constitution of the group is amended to include an additional place for a humanist representative.

Background Papers

Newport City Council Constitution

Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Functions and Responsibilities) (Wales) Regulations 2007

Dated: July 2018

APPENDIX 1

Newport SACRE

Purpose: Request for Council to increase Committee A(faith groups) membership of SACRE by one place.

Reasons: Newport SACRE prides itself on its inclusive nature and the range of diverse views that are represented on this committee. A member of the Humanist Association has written to SACRE seeking a place and this was supported by the SACRE committee. It is the Council that decides on the composition of the membership of SACRE and therefore SACRE is recommending to the Council that they consider this increase of membership of Committee A by one place to accommodate the Humanist request.

The arguments for inclusion of the Humanist UK Association (Wales) on SACRE would include

1. The letter from Kirsty Williams of May 2018 that to ensure compatibility with the Human Rights Act she has ruled that representatives from non-religious belief systems (such as Humanism) may be appointed to Group A.
2. The 2017 revised GCSE specification for Religious Studies from WJEC includes the study of secular as well as religious beliefs and this will be assessed in the examination. The specification states:
 - *The specification will develop learners' knowledge and understanding of religions and non-religious beliefs, such as atheism and humanism*
 - *All candidates must also consider non-religious beliefs, such as those held by Humanists and Atheists (this will be explicitly assessed in the (d) questions in the Life and Death theme).*
3. There is acceptance in the current agreed syllabuses in Wales that part of the RE skill of engaging with fundamental questions should give pupils opportunities to "interrogate a range of evidence from religious and non – religious sources... in order to consider issues raised"

It is therefore the opinion of the SACRE committee that a Humanist representative could add value to the debate and discussions that take place in SACRE.

Supporting Documents

- Current Membership List
- Letter of Cabinet Secretary for Education dated May 3rd 2018.

APPENDIX 1a

THE CITY OF NEWPORT SACRE – MEMBERSHIP (JUNE 2018)

Local Authority

Councillors - Laura Lacey (Chairperson), Tracey Holyoake, Ibrahim Hayat, Rehmaan Hayat and Joan Watkins

Education - Andrew Powles, Asst Head of Education, Engagement & Learning, Martin Dacey, Head of GEMS

Independent RE Adviser for SACRE – Vicky Thomas (RE Consultant) till July 2018

Faith Representatives

Church in Wales - Susie Hunt, Kath Sperry / Rebecca Penn

Roman Catholic – Patricia Landers

Baptist – Huw Stephens

Methodist – Vacancy

Evangelical Churches – Gifty David

Presbyterian Church of Wales / United Reformed Church – Ms Kirsty Mabbot

Salvation Army – Vacancy

Hindu – Soam Sharma

Jewish – Abraham Davidson

Sikh – Neeta Singh Baicher

Muslim – Sabina Begum

Professional Associations

National Union of Teachers/ATL – Sally Northcott (vacancy from June 2018) and Joanne Crawley

National Association of School Teacher/Union of Women Teachers – Nicola Huggleston

National Association of Head Teachers – Heather Vaughan

Secondary Head Teachers' Association (ASCL) – Lana Picton

UCAC – Kirsten Hicks

APPENDIX 1b: Letter of Cabinet Secretary for Education follows: