

TITLE	Amendments to SACRE Constitution
FOR CONSIDERATION BY	The Executive on 27 September 2018
WARD	None Specific;
DIRECTOR	Interim Director of Children's Services – Jim Leivers
LEAD MEMBER	Executive Member for Children's Services - Pauline Helliard-Symons

PURPOSE OF REPORT (INC STRATEGIC OUTCOMES)

Revising the membership requirements for the SACRE will make it easier for the SACRE to recruit new members and fill vacancies, thus maintaining an effective SACRE.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Executive accepts the amendments to the SACRE Constitution – section 1 Membership Structure, as set out in the Appendix to the report.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The membership requirements for the SACRE, as stated in the current constitution, have been found to be too specific and have made it difficult to recruit sufficient members to represent the various faith groups in Group A, and the educational groups in Group C.

The legal requirements, according to the 1996 Education Act Section 390 (4) (a), are that Group A should be: *'a group of persons to represent such Christian denominations and other religions and denominations of such religions as, in the opinion of the authority, will appropriately reflect the principal religious traditions in the area'*. Research into the constitutions of other SACREs shows that explicitly stating the Christian denominations that should make up Group A is not common practice.

The Act states that Group C should be:
'a group of persons to represent such associations representing teachers as, in the opinion of the authority, ought to be represented, having regard to the circumstances of the area'

Thus the legal requirements allow for greater flexibility than the membership structure currently in the constitution allows.

BACKGROUND

The SACRE Constitution was last reviewed in 2016.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF THE RECOMMENDATION

The Council faces severe financial challenges over the coming years as a result of the austerity measures implemented by the Government and subsequent reductions to public sector funding. It is estimated that Wokingham Borough Council will be required to make budget reductions in excess of £20m over the next three years and all Executive decisions should be made in this context.

	How much will it Cost/ (Save)	Is there sufficient funding – if not quantify the Shortfall	Revenue or Capital?
Current Financial Year (Year 1)	n/a	n/a	n/a
Next Financial Year (Year 2)	n/a	n/a	n/a
Following Financial Year (Year 3)	n/a	n/a	n/a

Other Financial Information

n/a

Stakeholder Considerations and Consultation

The SACRE agreed the membership structure amendments at its last meeting on the 11th June 2018.

Timeline for Review and Evaluation

The membership of SACRE will be considered on a regular basis by the Committee

List of Background Papers

Wokingham SACRE Constitution, with proposed changes indicated in red font.

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