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County Hall
Rhadyr
Usk
NP15 1GA

Tuesday, 30 January 2024

Notice of Special meeting

Standing Advisory Council for Religion, Values and Ethics (SAC)

Wednesday, 7th February, 2024 at 2.00 pm,
Conference Room - Usk, NP15 1AD and Remote Attendance

AGENDA

Item No	Item	Pages
1.	Apologies for Absence	
2.	Declarations of Interest	
3.	SAC Appointment Panel Proposal	1 - 4
4.	Next Meeting: 13th March 2024	

Paul Matthews

Chief Executive

MONMOUTHSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
CYNGOR SIR FYNWY

THE CONSTITUTION OF THE COMMITTEE IS AS FOLLOWS:

County Councillor Martyn Groucutt	Lansdown;	Welsh Labour/Llafur Cymru
County Councillor Jill Bond	West End;	Welsh Labour/Llafur Cymru
County Councillor Louise Brown	Shirenewton;	Welsh Conservative Party
County Councillor Rachel Buckler	Devauden;	Welsh Conservative Party
County Councillor Paul Pavia	Mount Pleasant;	Welsh Conservative Party
County Councillor Angela Sandles	Magor East with Undy;	Labour and Co-Operative Party

Representing the Church in Wales (1)

Rebecca Morteo

Representing the Roman Catholic Church (1)

Mr. A. Szwagrzak/ Anne Robertson

Representing Free Churches (4)

Baptist Church: Revd. J. Greaves
The Salvation Army: Vacancy
Methodist Church: Vacancy
Presbyterian Church: Mrs. S. Gooding

Representing the Bahá'í Faith (1)

Mrs S. Cave

Representing the Buddhist Faith (1)

Vacancy

Representing the Hindu Faith (1)

Vacancy

Representing the Jewish Faith (1)

Vacancy

Representing the Sikh Faith (1)

Vacancy

Representing the Muslim Faith (1)

Maddie Saraireh

Representing Non Religious Philosophical Convictions

Chris Francis (Humanism)

Representing the Teachers Associations (7)

5 x Vacancies

Mrs S. Hamer

Mrs C. Rhodes

Co-opted Members (2)

Vacancy

Vacancy

R.E Advisor

Hayley Jones (EAS)

Representing Chief Officer, Children and Young People

Sharon Randall-Smith

Public Information

Access to paper copies of agendas and reports

A copy of this agenda and relevant reports can be made available to members of the public attending a meeting by requesting a copy from Democratic Services on 01633 644219. Please note that we must receive 24 hours notice prior to the meeting in order to provide you with a hard copy of this agenda.

Welsh Language

The Council welcomes contributions from members of the public through the medium of Welsh or English. We respectfully ask that you provide us with adequate notice to accommodate your needs.

Aims and Values of Monmouthshire County Council

Our purpose

- to become a zero-carbon county, supporting well-being, health and dignity for everyone at every stage of life.

Objectives we are working towards

- Fair place to live where the effects of inequality and poverty have been reduced;
- Green place to live and work with reduced carbon emissions and making a positive contribution to addressing the climate and nature emergency;
- Thriving and ambitious place, where there are vibrant town centres and where businesses can grow and develop
- Safe place to live where people have a home where they feel secure in;
- Connected place where people feel part of a community and are valued;
- Learning place where everybody has the opportunity to reach their potential

Our Values

Openness. We are open and honest. People have the chance to get involved in decisions that affect them, tell us what matters and do things for themselves/their communities. If we cannot do something to help, we'll say so; if it will take a while to get the answer we'll explain why; if we can't answer immediately we'll try to connect you to the people who can help – building trust and engagement is a key foundation.

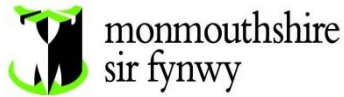
Fairness. We provide fair chances, to help people and communities thrive. If something does not seem fair, we will listen and help explain why. We will always try to treat everyone fairly and consistently. We cannot always make everyone happy, but will commit to listening and explaining why we did what we did.

Flexibility. We will continue to change and be flexible to enable delivery of the most effective and efficient services. This means a genuine commitment to working with everyone to embrace new ways of working.

Teamwork. We will work with you and our partners to support and inspire everyone to get involved so we can achieve great things together. We don't see ourselves as the 'fixers' or problem-solvers, but we will make the best of the ideas, assets and resources available to make sure we do the things that most positively impact our people and places.

Kindness: We will show kindness to all those we work with putting the importance of relationships and the connections we have with one another at the heart of all interactions.

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SUBJECT: Membership of the Standing Advisory Council (SAC) and Future Recruitment Arrangements

Meeting: Standing Advisory Council for Religion, Values and Ethics (SAC)

DATE: TBC

DIVISION/WARDS AFFECTED: N/A

1. PURPOSE

1.1 To clarify the remit and composition of the appointment panel established by SAC on 4 October 2023.

2. RECOMMENDATION

2.1 To accept the future arrangements for SAC as set out below.

3. KEY ISSUES

REMIT

3.1 On 4 October 2023 SAC approved the establishment of an appointment panel in respect of future vacancies on SAC.

3.2 The report which proposed the establishment of that panel provided that the panel would consider applications in respect of vacancies to both Group 1 (Faith and Belief Group) and Group 2 (Teaching Group).

3.3 The inclusion of Group 2 (Teaching Group) vacancies within the remit of the appointment panel was made in error.

3.4 Arrangements are already in place elsewhere within the local authority for the infilling of vacancies within Group 2 (Teaching Group). Teaching unions can present nominations in respect of any such vacancies to the local authority's Joint Advisory Group. The appointment of a nominee to a vacant position is then made by Full Council.

3.5 In accordance with the above practice, this latest report proposes that the consideration of vacancies within Group 2 (Teaching Group) be removed from

the remit of the SAC appointment panel, so that it is confined to considering applications in relation to vacancies within Group 1 (Faith and Belief Group).

COMPOSITION

- 3.6** On 4 October 2023 SAC resolved that the appointment panel would consist of SAC Chair and two other LA representatives.
- 3.7** This latest report proposes that the appointment panel will consist of SAC Chair, SAC Vice Chair, and one elected member from each of the 2 largest political groups which make up the serving Council. It is also proposed that all members of the panel will have one vote and that in the event of a tie, the Chair will have a casting vote.
- 3.8** The panel will have the power to recommend an applicant's appointment to SAC. The SAC Chair will inform the Full Council of any such recommendation. The final decision to appoint will be made by Full Council.
- 3.9** Once a decision to appoint has been made by Full Council, the SAC Chair will inform the applicant of the outcome and, if appointed, invite the latter to the next SAC meeting.

4. OPTIONS APPRAISAL

Do Nothing

Not agreeing to establishing a process for appointing members of SAC runs the risk that the local authority has not constituted SAC appropriately, thereby exposing any decision of SAC to the potential risk of legal challenge. A lack of a formal process also runs the risk of the LA acting inconsistently in the manner in which it appoints new members and being perceived to lack transparency, exposing it to allegations of acting unfairly or unreasonably.

Agree to proposed remit and composition of the appointment panel

Under the SAC Constitution and Terms of Reference, the responsibility for appointing members of the SAC appointment panel lies with the political groups which make up the serving council. Recommending the establishment of a formal process to appoint members of SAC panel will ensure that the LA is reflecting the views of all represented parties and acting in a transparent, consistent, and fair manner and when appointing new members.

5. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

None

6. SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

None

7. SAFEGUARDING AND CORPORATE PARENTING IMPLICATIONS

None.

8. BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

9. AUTHOR

Sharon Randall-Smith, Head of Service: Achievement & Extended Services

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