

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

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