

<b>Report to:</b>	SACRE
<b>Relevant Officer:</b>	Delyth Curtis, Director of People
<b>Date of Meeting :</b>	27 <sup>th</sup> January 2016

## **FUTURE OF THE BLACKPOOL SACRE**

### **1.0 Purpose of the report:**

1.1 To consider the future of the Blackpool SACRE.

### **2.0 Recommendation(s):**

2.1 To discuss the future of the Blackpool SACRE and to consider approaching Lancashire County Council with a proposal for a joint or some other form of joint working arrangement for the Blackpool SACRE.

### **3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):**

3.1 The Council is required by legislation to have a Standing Advisory Committee on Religious Education however given the reduced workload for the SACRE and the lack of recent meetings it is considered timely to further consider the operation of the SACRE.

3.2a Is the recommendation contrary to a plan or strategy adopted or approved by the Council? No

3.2b Is the recommendation in accordance with the Council's approved budget? Yes

3.3 Other alternative options to be considered:

None

### **4.0 Council Priority:**

4.1 The relevant Council Priority is

“Communities: Creating stronger communities and increasing resilience”

## **5.0 Background Information**

5.1 Blackpool Council in line with all Councils with responsibility for education is required by statute to have a Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education with a membership of Councillors, staff representatives and faith representatives. This body agrees the syllabus for religious education within community schools for Blackpool and offers guidance for those schools on ensuring participation and attainment in religious education within community schools.

5.2 Over the last few years, the amount of work for the SACRE has been reduced due to the reduction of the number of community schools as more convert to academy status. The SACRE's role is much less for academy schools and the SACRE is limited to an influencing capacity. There has also be a corresponding reduction in the local authority support available for religious education and what support is provided is clearly focused on attainment and could be better addressed through the Blackpool Challenge Board . At present the Council purchases the syllabus also used by Lancashire County Council.

5.3 The Blackpool SACRE shares a large proportion of its membership and nearly all of its most active membership with the Lancashire SACRE. There also could be a duplication in work across the two areas given the shared syllabus and it's considered that a joint SACRE could allow greater focus on the key issues and reduce administration costs for both authorities.

5.4 Members are invited to discuss further the issues and consider if joint working arrangements could represent a positive way forward.

5.4 Does the information submitted include any exempt information? No

### **5.6 List of Appendices:**

None

## **6.0 Legal considerations:**

6.1 Blackpool Council in common with all Councils that are children's services authorities are required to have a SACRE.

## **7.0 Human Resources considerations:**

7.1 None

**8.0 Equalities considerations:**

8.1 None

**9.0 Financial considerations:**

9.1 None

**10.0 Risk management considerations:**

10.1 None

**11.0 Ethical considerations:**

11.1 None

**12.0 Internal/ External Consultation undertaken:**

12.1 None

**13.0 Background papers:**

13.1 None