

Blackpool Council

7 October 2016

To: All Members of the SACRE

The above members are requested to attend the:

STANDING ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Wednesday, 19 October 2016 at 6.00 pm
in Committee Room B, Town Hall, Blackpool

A G E N D A

1 WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

2 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD ON 25 JULY 2016 (Pages 1 - 4)

To agree the minutes of the last meeting held on 25 July 2016 as a true and correct record.

3 NASACRE CONSTITUTION (Pages 5 - 14)

To consider revised constitution of the National Association of SACREs

4 LOCAL AUTHORITY SUPPORT TO SACRE (Pages 15 - 18)

To consider and discuss how the Council can support the SACRE and further possibilities for working together with other SACREs.

5 PRESENTATION ON THE LANCASHIRE AGREED SYLLABUS (Pages 19 - 22)

Further to the previous meeting to receive a presentation on the Lancashire Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education

6 DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

To agree the dates of next meetings as follows:

Wednesday 22 February 2017

Wednesday 17 May 2017

Venue information:

First floor meeting room (lift available), accessible toilets (ground floor), no-smoking building.

Other information:

For queries regarding this agenda please contact Lennox Beattie, Executive and Regulatory Manager, Tel: 01253 477157 , e-mail: lennox.beattie@blackpool.gov.uk

Copies of agendas and minutes of Council and committee meetings are available on the Council's website at www.blackpool.gov.uk.

Agenda Item 2

MINUTES OF STANDING ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION MEETING - MONDAY, 25 JULY 2016

Present:

Councillors Jackson, Kirkland and Singleton

Tim Cox, Helen Sage and Jo Snape, Blackburn Church of England Diocese, Church of England Group

Paul Harrison, Bispham Endowed Church of England Primary School

Margaret Wright, Roman Catholic Group

Imam Ashfaq Patel, Islam Representative

Dr Vasudev, Hindu Representative

In Attendance:

Dave Brennand, Brokerage and Professional Development Adviser, Blackpool Council

Lennox Beattie, Executive and Regulatory Manager, Blackpool Council

1 APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN

The Committee considered the appointment of a Chairman for Municipal Year 2016/2017.

Resolved:

That Tim Cox be appointed the Chairman of the Committee for the Municipal Year 2016/2017.

2 APPOINTMENT OF A VICE-CHAIRMAN

The Committee considered the appointment of a Vice-Chairman for the Municipal Year 2016/2017.

Resolved:

That Councillor Fred Jackson be appointed Vice-Chairman of the Committee for the Municipal Year 2016/2017.

3 WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

The Chairman welcomed the members of the SACRE to the meeting.

Apologies were noted on behalf of Councillor Simon Blackburn and Tammy Hackney, NUT, from the Staff and Teaching Associations Group.

**MINUTES OF STANDING ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION MEETING -
MONDAY, 25 JULY 2016**

4 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD ON 27 JANUARY 2016

The Committee considered the minutes of the last meeting held on the 27 January 2016.

Resolved:

That the minutes of the last meeting held on the 27 January 2016 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

5 NASACRE CONFERENCE 2016

The Committee received a presentation on the NASACRE Conference held on 17 May 2016 from Helen Sage who had attended the conference on behalf of Blackpool SACRE.

Mrs Sage highlighted briefly some of the key presentations given at the conference including the key note address by Baroness Elizabeth Butler-Sloss and the presentation given by Professor Adam Dinham.

Mrs Sage also emphasised how beneficial it had been for members to attend the national conference and that the SACRE would hopefully continue to fund attendance at the National conference in the future.

Resolved:

To note the presentation on National Association of SACRE's annual conference.

6 SACRE ANNUAL REPORT

The SACRE considered the draft annual report for 2015/2106 had been completed following comments made at the last meeting.

Mr Dave Brennand, Brokerage and Professional Development Adviser presented the document and outlined the key areas required of the annual report namely the Role of the SACRE, Religious Education in schools and the Effectiveness and Delivery of the Agreed Syllabus.

It was noted that an annual report had not been completed for a number of years and that this document had been completed by officers to bridge the gap between reports and that in future the annual report would be produced by the SACRE itself.

The Committee endorsed the annual report subject to the addition of details of GCSE results in the report. The Committee also requested that the results for the past three years be circulated for information to the SACRE.

Resolved:

To approve the SACRE annual report 2015/2016.

**MINUTES OF STANDING ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION MEETING -
MONDAY, 25 JULY 2016**

BLACKPOOL SACRE LOCAL AGREED SYLLABUS FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

The Committee considered the development of an agreed syllabus for Religious Education in Blackpool.

Mr Brennand, Brokerage and Professional Development Adviser presented the report and highlighted the development of an agreed syllabus by Lancashire County Council. He also highlighted that Blackpool needed to have a syllabus

Mr Brennand highlighted the support of local RE Network to the continued use of the same syllabus as in Lancashire given the movement of children and teachers across the local authority boundary. The Committee noted the support of the RE network but expressed concern that it had not been able to consider fully other options

The Committee expressed concern that it was being asked to approve a document had not yet been produced and within a short timescale. While noting the support of the Blackpool RE network it concluded that it may be beneficial to in future provide a longer period to review and develop a syllabus. The Committee also suggested that it would be useful to receive a presentation on the new syllabus at its next meeting.

Resolved:

1. To adopt the Lancashire Agreed Syllabus as the agreed Syllabus for Religious Education in Blackpool Community schools.
2. To agree to receive a presentation on the Lancashire Agreed Syllabus at the next meeting.
3. To agree that Academy schools who wish to use the Lancashire Agreed Syllabus be charged a fee for this curriculum.

8 FUTURE OF THE SACRE

The Committee considered its future. It noted that the National Association of SACRE's had now recommended against joint Committees.

The SACRE considered that in light of this advice, it should now not consider any potential merger with Lancashire SACRE but still seek to maximise joint working opportunities.

The SACRE noted that there remained a number of vacancies on the Committee and asked the clerk to take action to contact the relevant groups to fill the vacancies.

Resolved:

1. To agree that the SACRE continue to meet.

**MINUTES OF STANDING ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION MEETING -
MONDAY, 25 JULY 2016**

2. That officers to continue to maximise the opportunities to work collaboratively with other SACRE's.
3. To seek nominations to fill the outstanding vacancies on the SACRE.

9 DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

To agree the dates of next meetings as follows:

Wednesday 19 October 2016
Wednesday 22 February 2017
Wednesday 17 May 2017

Chairman

(The meeting ended at 7.50 pm)

Any queries regarding these minutes, please contact:
Lennox Beattie, Executive and Regulatory Manager
Tel: 01253 477157
E-mail: Lennox.beattie@blackpool.gov.uk

Report to:	SACRE
Relevant Officer:	Glenn Mascord. School Improvement Adviser
Date of Meeting:	19 October 2016

NASACRE REVISED CONSTITUTION

1.0 Purpose of the report:

1.1 To consider revised constitution of the National Association of SACREs

2.0 Recommendation(s):

2.1 To agree the revised constitution for NASACRE as attached at Appendix 3a

3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):

3.1 To ensure that the NASACRE has a constitution that is fit for purpose

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:

Not to approve the revised constitution.

4.0 Council Priority:

4.1 The relevant Council Priority is: "Communities: Creating stronger communities and increasing resilience"

5.0 Background Information

5.1 The Blackpool SACRE is a member of the National Association of Standing Advisory Committees of Religious Education (NASACRE). The body organises an annual conference, this year the event was held on the 17 May 2016. That meeting had sought approval for a revised constitution for the NASACRE, acknowledging that the

current constitution was no longer fit for purpose and appeared to not correspond to the way that NASACRE had worked for many years .

5.2 Over the last year the NASACRE executive has worked to produce a new proposed constitution (attached at Appendix 3a) which will enable the organisation to continue serving its members, supporting, strengthening and promoting the work done by local SACREs and representing the interests of members at a national level, for many years to come. However, due to the outmoded constitution the organization is currently working with, it was impossible at the AGM to agree this change. It was therefore suggested that the NASACRE conduct a vote virtually to ascertain if member SACREs agree to the new constitution.

5.3 The Blackpool SACRE is therefore asked to consider the revised constitution and if approved ask the clerk to forward that approval to NASACRE.

5.4 Does the information submitted include any exempt information? No

5.5 **List of Appendices:**

Appendix 3a: Proposed Constitution
Appendix 3b: Current Constitution

6.0 **Legal considerations:**

6.1 None

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

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Appendix 3a Proposed constitution 2016

Below is the proposed constitution to be discussed at the 2016 AGM. The current constitution page can be found from the menu on the left.

1. The Name of the Association:

The name of the Association shall be the National Association of Standing Advisory Councils on Religious Education (NASACRE).

2. The Aims of the Association:

The aims of the Association shall be:

2.1 To assist the Standing Advisory Councils on Religious Education (SACREs) to fulfil their responsibilities

2.2 To represent their common concerns to other bodies

2.3 To assist in the training and mutual consultation of SACRE members

2.4 To encourage the development of SACREs

2.5 To undertake such other activities, appropriate to SACREs, as may benefit RE and collective worship

3. Basis of membership and duties:

3.1 Each SACRE shall be invited to join the Association, membership being renewable annually on payment of the annual subscription in place at that time. These member SACREs constitute the Council.

3.2 The Council shall meet at least once annually; this meeting shall be known as the Annual General Meeting (AGM). It will be deemed to be quorate when one quarter of member SACREs is represented.

3.3 Each member SACRE shall be entitled to send any number of representatives to the meetings of the Council, but on any matter on which the Council takes a vote, each member SACRE shall be entitled to cast one vote only.

3.4 The Council shall be responsible for review and amendment of the Constitution, as appropriate.

3.5 A majority of one half plus one of the Council shall be necessary for any amendment to the Constitution.

4. The Honorary Officers:

Honorary Officers shall be nominated by a SACRE and must be an officer to, or a member or co-opted member of, that SACRE.

These shall be elected for a period of two years and shall comprise:

4.1 The Chair

4.2 The Vice Chair

4.3 The Assistant to the Chair

4.4 The Secretary

4.5 The Treasurer

The Vice Chair / Chair / Assistant to the Chair is a 6 year term of office with 2 years in each Officer role, the Vice Chair being elected to automatically move into the next role after two years. At any one time, 3 officers will be on the Executive at different stages of these roles. If at any time, one of these Officers is unable to continue, the Executive may appoint a temporary substitute from the other two post holders until the next AGM, when the position will be regularised.

An Honorary Officer may relinquish their office at any time. If an Honorary Officer is absent from three consecutive Committee meetings they shall be deemed to have relinquished their office and would need to seek re-election at the next Council AGM if they so desired.

5. The Executive Committee (the Committee):

Committee members shall be nominated by a SACRE and must be an officer to, or a member or co-opted member of, that SACRE. Similarly, a person co-opted by the Committee would normally be an officer to a SACRE or a member of a SACRE, but in some cases their specific area of expertise might be deemed more significant than the aforementioned criteria.

The Committee shall comprise the elected Honorary Officers together with no more than eight other members elected by the Council. The Committee shall have the power to co-opt up to three additional members. The Committee shall include the following:

5.1 The Assistant to the Chair who shall be the previous Chair and shall assist for a period of two years

5.2 A Membership Secretary who shall monitor the membership, keep up to date records and work with the Treasurer to ensure members have paid their fees on time

5.3 A Communications Officer who shall have oversight of the Association's communications strategy and communications, including the NASACRE briefings sent to member SACREs

5.4 A Conference Organiser who shall have oversight of the Annual Conference in partnership with the Secretary and the Treasurer

5.5 A Development Officer who shall oversee the production of a development plan and report to the Executive and Council on its progress

With the agreement of the Committee, the roles set out in 5.1 – 5.5 may be shared between members of the Committee. Members of the Committee shall serve for a period of three years, at which time they must seek re-election by the Council at the appropriate AGM. Normally, members of the Executive Committee should not serve more than six years consecutively. Co-opted members shall normally serve for two years when a review by the Committee will take place; they may serve as a co-opted member for up to six years consecutively.

If a member of the Committee misses three consecutive Committee meetings they shall be deemed to have left the Committee.

The Committee shall be responsible for the planning of other activities and events in fulfilment of the aims of the Association.

6. Subscriptions and Finance:

There shall be a membership fee, which shall be fixed from time to time by the Council. This fee shall not be deemed as the payment for the Annual Conference for that part of the Conference that is not the Council.

7. Winding-up:

If for any reason the Association were to be dissolved, any assets remaining in the Association's bank account(s) shall be divided equally between those SACREs which were members at the time of the dissolution of the Association, once all other debts outstanding had been cleared.

Appendix 3b: Constitution

1. The Name of the Association:

The name of the Association shall be the National Association of Standing Advisory Councils on Religious Education.

2. The Aims of the Association

- To assist the SACREs to fulfil their responsibilities
- To represent their common concerns to other bodies
- To assist in the training and mutual consultation of SACRE members
- To encourage the development of SACREs
- To undertake such other activities, appropriate to SACREs, as may benefit RE and collective worship

3. Basis of membership and duties:

- Each SACRE shall be invited to pass a resolution recommending its LA to approve affiliation with the association. The representatives of each SACRE affiliated to the association constitute the Council.
- Each affiliated SACRE shall be entitled to send any number of representatives to the meetings of the Council, but on any matter on which the Council takes a vote, each affiliated SACRE shall be entitled to cast one vote only.
- The Council shall be responsible for review and amendment of the Constitution, as appropriate.
- A majority of two thirds of the Council shall be necessary for any amendment to the Constitution.

The Council shall meet at least once annually and shall be deemed to be quorate when one quarter of affiliated SACREs is represented.

4. The Honorary Officers:

These shall be elected for a period of office determined by the Council (determined as "two years" at the AGM on 9 July 1994 Min 94.5) and shall compromise:

- The Chair
- The Deputy Chair
- The Secretary
- The Treasurer

5. The Executive Committee:

The Executive Committee shall comprise the elected Honorary Officers together with no more than eight other members elected by the Council. The Committee shall have the power to co-opt up to three additional members.

The Executive Committee shall be responsible for the planning of other activities and events in fulfilment of the aims of the Association.

6. Subscription and Finance:

There shall be an affiliation fee, which shall be fixed from time to time by the Council. It is currently £95 per annum.

Report to:	SACRE
Relevant Officer:	Glenn Mascord, School Improvement Adviser
Date of Meeting:	19 October 2016

LOCAL AUTHORITY SUPPORT TO SACRE

1.0 Purpose of the report:

- 1.1 To consider and discuss how the Council can support the SACRE and further possibilities for working together with other SACREs.

2.0 Recommendation(s):

- 2.1 To discuss how best the Council can support the SACRE
- 2.2 To consider how best to discharge the SACRE duties with respect to the Religious Education curriculum and collective worship in the light of this changed school situation outlined in the report.

3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):

- 3.1 To shape the future development 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, the item is for discussion.

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 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. It advises local authorities on what needs to be done to improve religious education and collective worship.
- 5.2 The relevant statements from annex A of the July 2014 DfE *Clarification of local authority statutory duties relating to services relevant to the Education Services Grant* A local authority must:
- set up a standing advisory council on religious education (section 390, Education Act 1996); and
 - prepare an agreed syllabus of religious education in accordance with Schedule 31, Education Act (1996).
- 5.3 There is not a designated budget from the Council to support SACRE but representation from a Council Officer in an advisory capacity, alongside an assigned minute taker is provided.
- 5.4 In response to a suggestion that Blackpool SACRE merge with Lancashire, the National Association of SACREs issued advice that it considers that best practice is reflected by continuing local SACREs. In line with this it was recommended that the Blackpool SACRE continues to meet three times each year but maximises opportunities to work collectively with other SACREs.
- 5.5 The role of the Local Authority has diminished in recent years and continues to do so. The current situation is that all of Blackpool's secondary schools are academies and no longer under Local Authority control. Multi-academy trusts are responsible:
Fylde Coast Academy Trust: Unity, Aspire, Montgomery.
Taheedul: Highfield
Bright Futures: South Shore
Blessed Edward Bamber Trust: St. Mary's
Cidari: St George's.

A number of primary schools are also now Academies
Bright Futures: Marton
Zest MAT: Waterloo.

Free standing: Hawes Side, Norbreck, Roseacre, Thames.

5.6 School Improvement will be led by the Blackpool School Improvement Board which, while having Council representation, will promote and support a school-led approach.

5.7 SACRE needs to consider how it will discharge its duties with respect to the RE curriculum and collective worship in the light of this changed landscape.

5.8 The Council will continue to support three meetings of SACRE per year and will be represented at meetings.

5.9 An RE network currently exists within Blackpool but Dave Brennand, who used to liaise with the group and with SACRE is no longer working for the Council. Networks are self-sustaining groups and will not be Council led. Rebecca Binns is the teacher currently leading the group.

5.10 Does the information submitted include any exempt information? No

5.11 **List of Appendices:**

None

6.0 Legal considerations:

6.1 None

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

Report to:	SACRE
Relevant Officer:	Glenn Mascord, School Improvement Adviser
Date of Meeting:	19 October 2016

PRESENTATION ON THE LANCASHIRE AGREED SYLLABUS

1.0 Purpose of the report:

- 1.1 Further to the previous meeting to receive a presentation on the Lancashire Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education.

2.0 Recommendation(s):

- 2.1 To note the development of the Lancashire Agreed Syllabus.
- 2.2 To note the presentation on the Lancashire Agreed Syllabus.

3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):

- 3.1 The previous meeting of the SACRE agreed as recommended by the RE Network for Blackpool to adopt to Lancashire Agreed Syllabus for Blackpool but considered it beneficial to receive a presentation on the syllabus at this meeting.

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 Lancashire County Council has agreed through its SACRE meeting to write a new syllabus. This syllabus would in a general terms reflect the current syllabus with some minor updates.

5.2 At its last meeting, the Committee considered the syllabus in view of the need for every authority to have its own syllabus. The Committee noted that the local Religious Education Network for Blackpool has been consulted and its preferred option is to adopt the same syllabus as Lancashire County Council. This would allow a level of continuity and cooperation across the two authorities. The Committee in view of this agreed to adopt the Lancashire Agreed Syllabus for Blackpool but also suggested that a presentation be given to the next meeting to

5.3 Joanne Harris from Broughton High School who played an important role in the development of the new Lancashire Agreed Syllabus has therefore been invited to this meeting to give a presentation on the new syllabus.

5.4 List of Appendices:

None

6.0 Legal considerations:

6.1 https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/190260/DCSF-00114-2010.pdf

None-statutory guidance 2010

http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1996/56/pdfs/ukpga_19960056_en.pdf

1996 education act (section 375)

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

