

Report to:	COUNCIL BUSINESS MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
Report of:	Director of Legal & Democratic Services
Date of Decision:	17th November 2015
SUBJECT:	REVIEW OF SACRE – INTERIM CONSTITUTION & GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS

1. Purpose of report:

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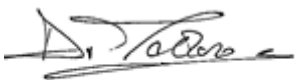
- 1.1 This report outlines the proposal for an Interim Constitution and governance arrangements for the Birmingham Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE), and seeks approval for the proposals to enable SACRE to be re-constituted in time for SACRE to meet in early 2016.
- 1.2 The Peter Clarke report and the Ian Kershaw report both identified issues of importance relating to the role of SACRE. Following these inquiry reports it was decided that a fundamental review of SACRE was required. It was agreed that SACRE's Constitution, membership, and ways of operating should be reviewed to ensure that it reflected best practice, transparency and enabled SACRE to perform an enhanced advisory and monitoring role.
- 1.3 The Assistant Director – Education and Skills, along with the reconstituted SACRE will take forward a consultation on a new Constitution and governance arrangements.
- 1.4 The Assistant Director – Education and Skills will consider the results of the consultation, and report back to this committee with proposals for a new Constitution and governance arrangements to be put in place by April 2016.
- 1.5 The detailed objectives of the Interim Constitution and governance arrangements are included at Appendix 1. In summary the proposals are aimed at ensuring that SACRE's Constitution, and governance arrangements are brought up to date; and that the issues raised in the inquiry reports are taken into account, and that the new arrangements reflect best practice governance.
- 1.6 The Education and Schools Strategy & Improvement Plan emphasised a whole system change with partners working collaboratively and differently to improve life chances for children and young people. SACRE was identified as a key partner in supporting curriculum development and providing an extended monitoring role in relation to religious education.

2. Decisions Recommended :	
Council Business Management Committee:	
2.1.	Approves the interim Constitution and governance arrangements attached as Appendices to this report, to be introduced from December 2015, alongside a full review and consultation process to be undertaken by the Assistant Director - Education and Skills.
2.2.	Authorises the Assistant Director – Education and Skills to recommend, following a full review and consultation, a new Constitution and governance process which takes account of the recommendations from the Peter Clarke and Ian Kershaw reviews, and is robust and contributes to effective and improved governance of SACRE.
2.3.	Note 1: that a new process based on the recommendations from the Assistant Director – Education and Skills will be presented to this committee for approval in or before April 2016.
2.4.	Note 2: The report from the Assistant Director – Education and Skills will make recommendations on how, and who should make decisions on appointments to SACRE in the future.

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3. New Standards Requirements:

Signatures of approval to submit the report to Committee:



Director of Legal & Democratic Services:

Dated: 9th November 2015

List of Background Documents used to compile this Report:

- The Education and Schools Strategy & Improvement Plan 1/12/14
- SACRE Constitution
- BCC Constitution
- Education legislation
- Kershaw and Clarke reports
- Religious Education in English Schools: Non-statutory guidance 2010 (Department for Education)

List of Appendices accompanying this Report (if any):

1. Objectives of the Review of the Constitution
2. Interim Constitution
3. Interim Recruitment Process
4. Interim SACRE Code of Conduct
5. SACRE Aims, Values, Mission and Objectives