

## **Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education**

**Held on Monday, 4 October 2021 at 6.00 pm**

### **Digital Meeting via Microsoft Teams**

*Held in accordance with the Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus)(Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulation 2020; and conducted according to the Council's Standing Orders for Remote Meetings and those set out in the Council's Constitution.*

#### **Present:**

Mrs P. Lane (Vice Chair in the Chair)  
Mrs K. Donnellan  
Mrs Graham  
Dr G. Gomez  
Mr W. Green  
Mrs B. Groombridge  
Mr D. Lomax  
Mr A. Orlik  
Mr Bhatt  
Councillor A. Hussain  
Councillor S. Johal  
Councillor S. Nasreen  
Councillor K. Pedley  
Councillor I. Robertson

#### **In Attendance:**

Ms F. Moss, RE Today Advisor  
Dr P. Fantom, Democratic Services Officer

### **1. Welcome and Apologies**

As the Chair, Mr D. Lomax, felt unwell, the meeting was chaired by the Vice-Chair, Mrs P. Lane.

The Vice-Chair opened the meeting by welcoming everyone, and explaining the rules of procedure and legal context in which the meeting was being held. She also directed members of the public viewing the meeting to the papers, which could be found on the Council's Committee Management Information system (CMIS) webpage.

Members and officers confirmed that they could both see and hear the proceedings.

Apologies were received on behalf of Councillors K. Hussain and G. Singh Sohal, Mrs V. Heydon-Matterface, Ms H. Leadley, Mr M. Sacha and Mr G. Tsiappourghi.

## **2. Minutes of the meeting held on 5 July 2021**

The Vice-Chair put the recommendation to the vote by way of a roll call of members.

### **Resolved:**

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 5 July 2021 be approved and signed as a true record.

## **3. Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 (as amended)**

There were no items for consideration in the private session.

## **4. Plans for the launch of the new agreed syllabus**

The RE Today Consultant, Ms F. Moss, provided information on the arrangements being made for the launch of the new agreed syllabus on 2 November 2021.

It was noted that having been agreed at the last meeting, the new agreed syllabus had been agreed at the meeting of Cabinet on 8 September 2021.

The launch would be a full-day virtual event to be run by Fiona Moss and Lat Blaylock, both of whom had been involved in writing the syllabus, and would be in three parts concerning the aims of RE, the syllabus, and assessment, impact and progression. Information on the launch had been circulated to schools and head teachers, and a copy of the flyer was circulated to the meeting [annexed].

Further to a question regarding the local authority funding for SACRE, it was noted by Ms Moss that each local authority used a portion of its Central School Services Block (CSSB) funding, and that an item on SACRE funding could be placed on the agenda for a future meeting.

## **5. New SACRE annual reporting format**

A document concerning the format for the new Annual Report was submitted and it was noted that from September 2021, NASACRE, in conjunction with the DfE, would undertake an analysis of annual reports using this framework [annexed].

Further to questions from Members, Ms Moss explained the timescales for providing the annual report and the reporting arrangements in respect of academies.

## **6. School workforce data for secondary schools, 2020**

Ms Moss shared with Members a presentation on school workforce data, including the amount of time devoted to teaching each subject area, for secondary schools in Walsall during 2020. It was noted that primary schools were not required to provide this type of data.

Whilst recognising that data from some schools was still to be provided, Members noted the positive improvements that had been made.

**7. Community cohesion**

This item was deferred to the next meeting.

**8. NASACRE training**

Ms Moss referred to the events and other training that had been circulated [annexed].

**9. National RE updates for SACREs**

Ms Moss provided updates on various events and items, including:

- Research into public perceptions of religious education
- GCSE and A' Level Religious Studies
- Resumption of school inspections
- CPD and networking opportunities

During discussion, the question of what was done with the information provided during SACRE meetings was raised. It was noted that the Local Authority provided information to schools, head teachers and governors.

**10. Dates for Future Meetings**

It was noted that the next meetings were to be held on:

- 7 March 2022
- 20 June 2022

The meeting terminated at 7.26 pm.

Chair: .....

Date: .....