

## HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

### Report

<b>Committee/Panel:</b>	SACRE
<b>Date:</b>	15 November 2016
<b>Title:</b>	Religious Education Council (REC) Commission on Religious Education
<b>Reference:</b>	7864
<b>Report From:</b>	<i>Director of Children's Services</i>

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#### 1. Summary

- 1.1. The purpose of this paper is to update SACRE on issues in relation to the Religious Education Council (REC)'s Commission on Religious Education (RE). An extract from the REC's August Newsletter in relation to this matter is attached to this report (Appendix 1).

#### 2. Contextual information

- 2.1. This paper supports the Corporate Strategy (maximising well being) by ensuring children's provision in religious education is secure.
- 2.2. The Commission on RE was launched in July 2016 and its membership, terms of reference and purposes made public at that point
- 2.3. The investigation is intended to be a wide-ranging and inclusive process of evidence gathering. This process, beginning in the autumn 2016, will last for two years with a final report expected in mid-2018. Initial submissions are being invited now, before the first meeting of The Commission.
- 2.4. The areas that the commission is seeking evidence regarding are
- The legal and structural arrangements
  - The public and professional profile of the subject
  - Recruitment, Initial Teacher Education and Continuous Professional Development
  - The range of school settings in which RE should be required
  - The age range for which RE should be required
  - The right to withdraw (parents or carers, pupils and teachers)

- Whether or not there should be a common entitlement in RE, and if so what the entitlement should be
- 2.5. In light of the history of successful and well-supported RE in Hampshire over 40 years, it is proposed that a letter is sent from the Chair of SACRE to The Commission. This letter would give preliminary evidence to the commission from Hampshire and especially with regard to the public and professional profile of religious education and how the opportunities that have been and continue to be available for continuing professional development have had impact on RE. Evidence cited would include notes from monitoring group reports.
  - 2.6. A more formal opportunity to submit evidence would be sought at a later stage.
  - 2.7. Further advice from SACRE is sought at this meeting with regard to the content of the letter mentioned in 2.5 above (draft in Appendix 2).

### **3. Recommendation**

- 3.1. That SACRE notes the report
- 3.2. That SACRE endorses the submission to be made to The Commission on RE by the Chair of SACRE on behalf of the Hampshire SACRE.

**CORPORATE OR LEGAL INFORMATION:**

**Links to the Corporate Strategy**

<b>Hampshire safer and more secure for all:</b>	no
Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate):	
<b>Maximising well-being:</b>	yes
Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate):	
<b>Enhancing our quality of place:</b>	no
Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate):	

**Section 100 D - Local Government Act 1972 - background documents**

**The following documents discuss facts or matters on which this report, or an important part of it, is based and have been relied upon to a material extent in the preparation of this report. (NB: the list excludes published works and any documents which disclose exempt or confidential information as defined in the Act.)**

Document

Location

None

## **IMPACT ASSESSMENTS:**

### **1. Equality Duty**

1.1. The County Council has a duty under Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 ('the Act') to have due regard in the exercise of its functions to the need to:

- Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and any other conduct prohibited under the Act;
- Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic (age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, gender and sexual orientation) and those who do not share it;
- Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

**Due regard in this context involves having due regard in particular to:**

- a) The need to remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons sharing a relevant characteristic connected to that characteristic;
- b) Take steps to meet the needs of persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic different from the needs of persons who do not share it;
- c) Encourage persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.

### **1.2. Equalities Impact Assessment:**

It is intended that this report will have a positive impact on fostering good relations between persons who share a relevant characteristic and minimise any disadvantage suffered.

### **2. Impact on Crime and Disorder:**

2.1. No impact on crime and disorder has been identified in this report.

### **3. Climate Change:**

- a) How does what is being proposed impact on our carbon footprint / energy consumption?
- b) How does what is being proposed consider the need to adapt to climate change, and be resilient to its longer term impacts?

No impact on climate change has been identified in this report.