

REVISED SACRE CONSTITUTION

Report By: Democratic Services Officer

Purpose

1. To consider and approve the revised SACRE Constitution.

Report

1. Arising from debate at the November 2011 meeting a review has been undertaken of the SACRE Constitution. Over the years a number of minor changes have been made to the Constitution to reflect the wishes of SACRE. These principally arose from the appointment at various times of Baha'i, Sikh and Buddhist members.
2. A more considered review of the Constitution has been undertaken by comparing the Herefordshire constitution with the exemplar constitution found on the NASACRE website and a number of other SACRE's.
3. The law itself relating to the constitution and administration of a SACRE has not altered, and therefore no changes have been made to the core principals by which SACRE operates. However, a number of housekeeping changes have been identified and these have been amended or added as indicated in the below chart.
4. A draft revised constitution is appended for consideration and approval.
5. The main changes have been made in relation to the following constitution paragraphs (as indicated in the attached document):

Paragraph Number	Reason for the change or inclusion.
6	In accordance with the Guidance wording has been inserted to indicate that nominations should be from appropriate faith organisations or group.
9	A new section has been added to provide greater clarity concerning the nomination and appointment of co-opted members.
10	To provide more detail concerning the term of office for members.
12	To provide guidance on the process to be followed should a member or co-opted member regularly fail to attend meetings.
14	The voting procedure is in accordance with the Guidance, however, the Guidance leaves it for the SACRE to resolve any deadlock. To clarify the procedure should a vote on an issue result in a draw a procedure has been inserted but will still provide for an urgent issue to be resolved.
19	Recognising that a number of issues before SACRE do not require a formal decision this will enable a meeting to continue but that formal decisions would have to be ratified at a later meeting when it was quorate.

21	To reflect the current post holder title and provide for any future change in title. Also to regularise the position of the representative from Democratic Services.
22	To include further reference to legislation concerning the press and public.
23	To signpost to a source of further guidance.

6. SACRE are requested to consider the suggested revisions to the Constitution and approve it for immediate implementation.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT SACRE consider the suggested amendments and approve the revised Constitution for implementation with immediate effect.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

- None identified.