

## **Title of report: SACRE budget 2021/22**

**Meeting: Standing advisory council for religious education (SACRE)**

**Meeting date: Friday 12 March 2021**

**Report by: Lead Officer for SACRE**

### **Classification**

Open

### **Decision type**

This is not an executive decision

### **Wards affected**

(All Wards);

### **Purpose**

To note the budget for SACRE for 2021/22.

### **Recommendation(s)**

**That: the SACRE budget of £5,000 for 2021/22 be noted.**

### **Alternative options**

1. There are no alternative options to recommendation proposed. This report is to inform SACRE of its budget for the forthcoming financial year.

### **Key considerations**

2. Section 390 of the Education Act 1996 requires Herefordshire Council to establish a Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE), to advise them on matters concerned with the provision of religious education and collective worship in county schools.

## **Community impact**

3. The provision of religious education and collective worship seeks to increase understanding and tolerance of all religions in all local communities. A stated aim in Herefordshire Council's corporate plan is to ensure that there is access to excellent education and learning opportunities at all levels, including early years/schools, Further Education, Higher Education and adult learning.

## **Environmental Impact**

4. Whilst this is a decision on back office functions and will have minimal environmental impacts, consideration has been made to minimise waste and resource use in line with the Council's Environmental Policy.

## **Equality duty**

5. Under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010, the 'general duty' on public authorities is set out as follows:

A public authority must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to:

- (a) eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act;
  - (b) advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;
  - (c) foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.
6. The public sector equality duty (specific duty) requires us to consider how we can positively contribute to the advancement of equality and good relations, and demonstrate that we are paying 'due regard' in our decision making in the design of policies and in the delivery of services. The provision of religious education seeks to contribute positively to the specific duty by increasing the understanding and awareness of all religions in local communities.

## **Resource implications**

7. New funding arrangements following the abolition of the Education Services Grant in April 2017, require that SACRE is funded from the Central Services Block of Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG). The budget is currently set at £5,000 pa. Around £4,000 is spent annually on a contract with RE Today which provides for a current annual surplus of approximately £1,000 which is accumulated each year to fund the syllabus review every five years. Currently the rolled over funds total £72 from 2019/20 as the syllabus review was funded in 19/20. Approximately £2,000 will be rolled forward from the current financial year and the amount rolled-over will increase over the next four years to provide sufficient funding to meet the cost of the syllabus review in 2024/25. Future

underspends will be rolled forward similarly although the precise amount cannot be guaranteed as it will depend on the actual costs each year. If the syllabus review is every four or five years then the current funding arrangements will provide sufficient budget to meet the costs of both the annual service contract with RE Today and the syllabus review. This also provides for future inflation and a cost increase on the renewal of the SACRE contract which is currently provided by RE today. The budget will be reviewed annually to ensure there is sufficient funding rolled forward to meet the syllabus review cost.

## **Legal implications**

8. Section 390 of the Education Act 1996 requires Herefordshire Council to establish a SACRE to advise them on matters concerned with the provision of religious education and collective worship in county schools.
9. Section 2.9.19 of Herefordshire Councils constitution provides for the establishment and membership of SACRE. The current membership groups are outlined in 2.9.21.

## **Risk management**

10. There are no risks associated with this report.

## **Consultees**

11. None.

## **Appendices**

None

## **Background papers**

None identified.

**Please include a glossary of terms, abbreviations and acronyms used in this report.**

**Standing advisory council for religious education (SACRE) – Standing advisory council for religious education  
DSG – Dedicated Schools Grant**