

FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
SACRE COMMITTEE
7 FEBRUARY 2024

Minutes of the meeting of the SACRE Committee of Flintshire County Council held virtually on the 7 February 2024

IN ATTENDANCE:

Elected Members: Cllr A Parkhurst (AP); Cllr Mared Eastwood (ME); Cllr Marion Bateman (MB); Cllr Adele Davies-Cooke (AD); Cllr Debbie Owen

Presbyterian Church of Wales representatives: Rev Huw Powell Davies (HD); Ann Smith (AS)

Primary schools' representative: Amira Mattar (Westwood CP School)

Special School representative: Julian Lewis, Ysgol Pen Coch

Education Representatives: Vicky Barlow (VB), Senior Manager School Improvement.

Also, in attendance, Kim Brookes (KB), Senior Manager, Education & Youth (Clerk); Nic Gittens, Democratic Services Clerk;
NG confirmed meeting being recorded.

Clerk welcomed colleagues to the meeting. It was confirmed that the numbers present meant the meeting was quorate, however as apologies received from Chair, Cllr DM and Vice Chair not present, Clerk asked for nomination of acting Chair for the meeting. It was agreed Cllr ME appointed as Chair for the meeting.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Paul Cunningham; Cllr Roz Mansell; Catherine McCormack; Lyn Oakes;
Cllr Dave Mackie; Jennie Downes

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – CODE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT CONDUCT

None declared but noting those Elected members who are school governors.

3. MINUTES OF MEETINGS HELD 23 NOVEMBER 2023

Agreed: minutes accepted as a true record.

Matters arising: VB confirmed details of WASACRE Conference had been circulated to group and the Annual Report published.

4. ANALYSIS OF INSPECTION REPORTS

VB referred to the report circulated with the agenda and the Estyn findings in the reports for 4 schools published this term and pleased to note that no schools had received recommendations around RVE.

VB highlighted particularly the report at 3.4 to illustrate the focus of inspection of RVE appropriately with the Curriculum for Wales (CfW) but a need to strengthen pupils' learning through authentic experiences in their locality.

At 5.5 of the report, VB pleased to note that the school is acknowledged for progressing the Curriculum.

Cllr ME thanked Officers for their work in supporting schools and Committee accepted the report.

5 CRITERIA FOR CO-OPTION OF MEMBERS

To receive a verbal report from Kim Brookes, Clerk to the Committee (Senior Manager Business Support and School Governance, Education and Youth Portfolio).

Clerk advised the Committee that although the existing terms of reference, for SACRE, do provide for co-opted membership, this is not currently applied. Therefore, Committee is asked to consider, going forward, criteria for the nomination of Co-opted Membership, that is:

- how many,
- for what 'purpose',
- how long they are co-opted for
- whether they have voting rights

Consideration of any nominations in accordance with agreed criteria would be confidential agenda item (exclusion of public). Criteria for coopted members to also be included in future revisions to terms of reference.

Cllr AP asked Committee to consider what the National Census statistics on religious belief provide and how we might engage with different communities.

HD asked if consideration could be given to review representation from wider church bodies and co-opt more representatives. Clerk advised that whilst they could be considered as a co-opted member, the membership of Committee A under the proposed new terms for the SAC could provide for inclusion of wider religious representation.

Cllr ME proposed that consideration could be given to co-opt to support specific projects/committee interests, and that it could be a two year appointment with no voting rights.

Agreed: consideration of co-opted members on these terms.

6. TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR STANDING ADVISORY COUNCIL (SAC)

To receive a verbal update on the proposed timetable from Kim Brookes, Clerk to the Committee (Senior Manager Business Support and School Governance, Education and Youth Portfolio).

Clerk advised that under the regulations, each new Standing Advisory Committee (SAC) will require a Constitution and Terms of Reference to be agreed and in place from September 2026. WASCARE have advised Authorities that a 'shadow' SAC may co-exist with the same constitution and terms of reference of the existing SACRE, and that both bodies need to be in place until the end of the 2025/26 academic year, after which, SACRE will dissolve, and SAC will continue.

Clerk advised that as the existing SACRE is a statutory committee and its terms included in the Council's Constitution, changes to terms of reference require approval through the Council's appropriate Committee cycle. The following draft timetable was proposed.

- 1/ The draft constitution and terms of reference for SAC applicable from September 2026, to be in draft form by summer term meeting 2024, and presented to meeting for consultation
- 2/ Final draft following any changes from consultation to be agreed at Autumn Term 2024 meeting
- 3/ scheduled through committee cycle – COT – constitution Committee – Cabinet during Spring term 2025

Agreed: to submit draft for consideration at the June 2024 meeting.

7. CORRESPONDENCE

VB referred to the correspondence, circulated to the Committee, from the Secretary to WASACE inviting SAC / SACREs to make nominations for new members of the WASACRE Executive Committee. It was noted, that in accordance with the terms and conditions of the nomination, as Flintshire SACRE already has a representative on the Executive Committee (VB), then we are not able to make a further nomination at this time, but that we as a Committee are able to nominate a person from another SAC/SACRE.

Action: Clerk to seek clarification from the WASACRE Secretary on how this is to be done and given that the Committee is not scheduled to meet before the closing date for nominations.

8. WASACRE CONFERENCE JUNE 13, 2024

Diary marker circulated previously to members.

9. FUTURE MEETINGS

Future meetings will be held at 4pm on the following dates:

Wednesday 5 June 2024

Chair thanked Committee members and Officers for their attendance. Meeting ended 16.37pm