

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

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COMMITTEE	Council
DATE	22 August 2012
DIRECTOR	Stewart Carruth
TITLE OF REPORT	Appointment of Third Religious Representative to the Education, Culture and Sport Committee
REPORT NUMBER	CG/12/081

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**1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

This report describes the outcome of a consultative meeting held on 27 June 2012 to seek a suitable nomination for the appointment of a third religious representative to sit on the Education, Culture and Sport Committee, in terms of Section 124 of the Local Government etc. (Scotland) Act 1994.

**2. RECOMMENDATION**

That Council approve the appointment of Mrs Anne Tree as the third religious representative on the Education, Culture and Sport Committee.

**3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no financial implications arising from this report.

**4. OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

The Council has a statutory obligation to appoint three religious representatives to the Education, Culture and Sport Committee, the purposes of which include advising the authority on any matters relating to the discharge of their function as education authority. If the Council fails to appoint a third religious representative, it will be in breach of a statutory duty.

**5. BACKGROUND/MAIN ISSUES**

Section 124 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (as amended by the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1994) requires local authorities, in appointing a Committee whose purposes include advising the authority on any matter relating to the discharge of their functions as education authority, or discharging any of those functions of the authority on their behalf, to appoint

one representative of the Church of Scotland, one representative of the Roman Catholic Church, and one representative of other churches and denominational bodies, in the selection of whom, the authority shall have regard (taking account of the representation of the churches referred to above) to the comparative strength within their area of all the churches and denominational bodies having duly constituted charges or other regularly appointed places of worship there. Following the May 2012 local government elections, the Education, Culture and Sport Committee representatives for the Church of Scotland and the Roman Catholic Church had been appointed, and officers were required to begin the appointment process for the third religious representative.

In accordance with this duty, a consultative meeting was held on 27 June 2012, with a view to securing a nomination for the appointment of the third religious representative. In calling the meeting, an advertisement was placed in the Evening Express; letters and emails were sent to a wide range of faith groups in the city; and a notice was placed on the front page of the Aberdeen City Council website.

The following faith groups attended the meeting:-

The Mission Church  
Aberdeen Vineyard  
St Devenick's Episcopal Church  
City Church  
Crown Terrace Baptist Church  
Aberdeen Hindu Association  
Deeper Life Bible Church  
St Mary's Episcopal Church  
Aberdeen Mosque Islamic Centre.

From the faith groups in attendance, two nominations were put forward: Anne Tree, St Devenick's Episcopal Church and Aishah Sha Jihan, Aberdeen Mosque Islamic Centre. Following an explanation of the remit and responsibilities of the Education, Culture and Sport Committee by officers and the Convener, both nominees gave a short presentation on why they should be appointed to the Committee, after which a ballot was taken. As there were nine faith groups in attendance, the successful nominee was required to obtain at least five votes. Each faith group was entitled to one vote, and following the ballot, Anne Tree received seven votes and Aishah Sha Jihan received two. Mrs Tree was therefore nominated to Council to take up the third religious representative place on the Education, Culture and Sport Committee.

## **6. IMPACT**

Corporate – The appointment of the third religious representative has links with the Council's commitment to progress equalities work in relation to religion/belief.

## **7. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

None.

## **8. REPORT AUTHOR DETAILS**

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