

## ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

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COMMITTEE	Council
DATE	14 December 2016
LEAD OFFICER	Interim Director of Corporate Governance
TITLE OF REPORT	Education and Children's Services Committee – External Appointments (Church of Scotland, Teacher and Parent Representatives)
REPORT NUMBER	CG/16/157
CHECKLIST COMPLETED	Yes

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### 1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

The report brings before the Council details of nominations from (1) the Church of Scotland for a replacement Church of Scotland representative on the Education and Children's Services Committee following the resignation of Reverend McKenna; (2) the Teachers' Consultative Forum for a replacement teacher representative on the Education and Children's Services Committee following the resignation of Mr Duncan; and (3) Aberdeen City Parent Councils Forum for a parent representative for primary school and ASN provision following the resignation of Mrs Bowyer.

### 2. RECOMMENDATIONS

That Council approve the following external member appointments to the Education and Children's Services Committee –

- Reverend Hutton Steel as the Church of Scotland representative;
- Ms Pamela Scott as the second teacher representative; and
- Mrs Louise Bruce as the primary school and ASN provision parent representative.

### 3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The financial implications associated with this report are minimal. Each external member requires to undertake a PVG Scheme check. Each application to the PVG Scheme costs £59 for new members and £18 if they are existing members staying within the same group. Checks for external members will be processed by HR in line with the procedure for dealing with PVG checks for Elected Members.

#### 4. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

The Council has a statutory obligation to appoint three religious representatives to the Education and Children's Services 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 Church of Scotland representative, it will be in breach of a statutory duty.

The Council has agreed that the Education and Children's Services Committee membership contain two teacher and two parent representatives with full voting rights. If the Council fails to appoint a parent and teacher representative, it will be negating a previous decision.

#### 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.

Reverend McKenna has resigned his position as the Church of Scotland representative on the Education and Children's Services Committee. The Church of Scotland has advised that Reverend Hutton Steel has been nominated as the replacement representative for this Committee. The Council is asked to agree the appointment of Reverend Steel.

The Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (as amended by the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1994) also enables local authorities to appoint people who are not elected members of the authority to be members of the committee, and it is in exercising this discretion that the Council has appointed two teacher and two parent representatives. This is reflected in the Council's Standing Orders.

One of the teacher representatives Mr Stewart Duncan has resigned and the Teachers' Consultative Forum (TCF) has nominated Ms Pamela Scott as the replacement teacher representative. The Council is asked to agree the appointment of Ms Scott.

Mrs Angela Bowyer the parent representative for primary schools and ASN provision has resigned and Aberdeen City Parent Councils Forum has selected Mrs Louise Bruce as the replacement representative. The Council is asked to agree the appointment of Mrs Bruce.

## 6. IMPACT

Appointing religious representatives on the Education and Children's Services Committee is the Council complying with its statutory duty.

The appointment of the replacement Church of Scotland religious representative has links with the Council's commitment to progress equalities work in relation to religion/belief.

The appointment of the replacement teacher and parent representatives enhances teacher and parent involvement and helps to support community engagement with local communities and to develop a strong partnership with parents.

Beyond this the proposal has no specific impact on customer experience, staff experience or the Council's use of resources.

An Equality and Human Rights Impact Assessment is not required as the proposal does not disproportionately impact on persons with protected characteristics compared to persons without such characteristics

## 7. MANAGEMENT OF RISK

If the Council fails to appoint a replacement Church of Scotland representative, it will be in breach of a statutory duty.

If the Council fails to appoint replacement teacher and parent representatives, it will be in breach of its previous decision that the two external teacher and parent members be full members of the Education and Children's Services Committee.

## 8. BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

## 9. REPORT AUTHOR DETAILS

Roderick MacBeath  
Senior Democratic Services Manager  
[rmacbeath@aberdeencity.gov.uk](mailto:rmacbeath@aberdeencity.gov.uk)  
01224 523504