

North Yorkshire County Council

North Yorkshire Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE)

26th January 2021

Recording of individual attendance by Members at meetings

1.0 Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To seek a decision from SACRE as to whether the attendance of individual Members should be recorded and, if so, how.

2.0 Background Information

- 2.1 Currently, attendance at SACRE Meetings over the course of the academic year is recorded in the Annual Report. This is by Group A/B/C/D, rather than by the names of individual Members within each Group.
- 2.2 A view was expressed by Professor John Adams, of the Humanist Association, that individual attendance should be recorded in the Annual Report.
- 2.3 As part of the consideration of the draft Annual Report at the last meeting on 6th October 2020, it was agreed that Members would let me know their preference as to the recording of individual attendance at SACRE Meetings.
- 2.4 I emailed Members to seek their view and advised that the following would seem to be the main options:-
- a) In each set of Minutes of SACRE Meetings include details of the attendance totals for that year
 - b) Include the attendance figures in the Annual Report of SACRE
 - c) Put the attendance figures on the Council's website
 - d) Include attendance figures in the report that goes annually to the Standards Committee and the County Council
 - e) That attendance not be recorded other than, of course, in the Minutes of each SACRE Meeting
- 2.5 Four Members responded. Three were in favour of individual attendance being recorded in the Annual Report, or elsewhere, one of whom added that, if this is via the Annual Report, it could be pointed out that this has been a difficult year, with some Members having difficulty in accessing remote meetings.
- 2.6 One Member did not feel it is appropriate to name individuals and their attendance and questioned the reasons why we would want to do this in that, if there is a Member continually non-attending, there are procedures in place to address that. Sometimes missing a meeting is unavoidable.

- 2.7 For the information of Members, another statutory body in the county, the North Yorkshire Safeguarding Adults Board, records in its Annual Report attendance by the position and organisation the Member is from, rather than by individual name. For instance, it refers to the attendance by *Corporate Director of Health and Adult Services*, rather than *Richard Webb*.
- 2.8 As the vehicle of the Annual Report already exists, it seems sensible to continue to record attendance in that document rather than elsewhere. The question is: Does the Committee want attendance to be recorded:-
- by *Group*, as is currently the case?;
 - by the *position/organisation* of the Member? (e.g. the Catholic Member of SACRE attended, say, 3 out of 4 meetings during the year); or
 - by *individual name and organisation*? (e.g. A.N. OTHER, from the Salvationists, attended 3 out of 4 meetings during the year)

PLEASE NOTE: The above examples are purely illustrative

3.0 Recommendation

- 3.1 That attendance for the academic year at meetings of SACRE continue to be recorded in the Annual Report, but that SACRE decide whether that should be changed from the current method, which shows attendance by each Group, to the position/organisation represented by each Member; or the name of the individual Member and organisation they are from.

NOTE: The recording of individual attendance in the Minutes of each meeting will continue as per current practice.

Patrick Duffy
Clerk to North Yorkshire SACRE

County Hall, Northallerton

18th January 2021

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Background documents: None