

To: Education and Children Policy Board

On: 9 March 2017

Report by: Director of Finance and Resources

**Heading: Church Representatives on Committees Appointed by
Education Authorities**

1. Summary

- 1.1 Section 124 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 provides that where an education authority appoints 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, three of the members to be appointed (who shall not be members of the education authority) shall be church representatives. One of the three places requires to be filled in accordance with the Act by a nomination from the Church of Scotland and one by the Roman Catholic Church.
- 1.2 The existing church members' appointments to the Education and Children Policy Board do not continue beyond the local government election to be held on 4 May, 2017. In anticipation that the new Council will appoint a committee or board with a remit relating to education functions, it is proposed therefore that the Church of Scotland and Roman Catholic Church be invited to nominate their respective representatives in order that these may be reported to the statutory meeting of the Council.
- 1.3 In the selection of the third person the Act specifies that the authority shall have regard (taking account of the representation of the Roman Catholic Church and the Church of Scotland) to the comparative strength within the area of all the churches and denominational bodies having duly constituted charges or other appointed places of worship therein.
- 1.4 In order to obtain nominations for the third representative, it is proposed (as has been the practice previously) to place an advertisement (as detailed in the appendix to this report) in the local and national press and on the Council's website seeking nominations: the closing date for nominations being 20 April 2017.

- 1.5 The Ethical Standards in Public Life etc (Scotland) Act 2000 introduced an ethical framework which required the Scottish Ministers to issue a Code of Conduct for Councillors. The Code does not apply to non-elected members of committees. Standards Commission guidance recommends that co-opted members be guided by the Code and in the case of church representatives the Standards Commission has advised that authorities should seek confirmation from the appointing authorities that they will require their appointees to apply with the Code.
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2. Recommendations

- 1.1. That it be noted that the existing church members' appointments to the Education and Children Policy Board do not continue beyond the local government election to be held on 4 May, 2017.
- 1.2. That it be agreed that the Church of Scotland and the Roman Catholic Church be invited to nominate their respective representatives to the committee or board which may be established by the new Council to deal with education functions, and that these be reported to the statutory meeting of the new Council to be held on 18 May, 2017; and
- 1.3. That an advertisement be placed in the local and national press and on the Council's website seeking nominations for the third church representative and that a report on the responses to the advertisement be submitted to the statutory meeting of the new Council to be held on 18 May, 2017.
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Implications of this report

- 1. Financial Implications** – the cost of the advert will be met from existing resources.
- 2. HR and Organisational Development Implications** – none
- 3. Community Plan/Council Plan Implications** – none
- 4. Legal Implications** – as detailed in the report.
- 5. Property/Assets Implications** – none
- 6. Information Technology Implications** – none

7. Equality and Human Rights Implications

- (a) The Recommendations contained within this report have been assessed in relation to their impact on equalities and human rights. No negative impacts on equality groups or potential for infringement of individuals' human rights have been identified arising from the recommendations contained in the report because for example it is for noting only. If required following implementation, the actual impact of the recommendations and the mitigating actions will be reviewed and monitored, and the results of the assessment will be published on the Council's website.

8. Health and Safety Implications – none

9. Procurement Implications – none

10. Risk Implications – none

11. Privacy Impact – none

List of Background Papers –

- (a) none

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RENFREWSHIRE COUNCIL

It is likely that Renfrewshire Council, following the local government elections to be held on 4 May, 2017, will set up an education committee. The membership of this committee will include one representative of the Church of Scotland and one representative of the Roman Catholic Church. The committee will also require to appoint a third person, having regard to the comparative strength in Renfrewshire of all churches and denominational bodies having duly constituted charges or other appointed places of worship.

Nominations are therefore invited from individuals or from churches and denominational bodies. Nominations from individuals should be in writing and include your name and address together with a statement outlining why you should be appointed. Churches or denominational bodies wishing to nominate someone to be considered for appointment should provide a statement indicating why their nominee should be considered. They should also provide details of the number of people within Renfrewshire who are members of their church or denominational body and any further supporting information as they may wish.

Everyone who has made a nomination will be informed of the outcome of the selection.

If you would like further information, please contact Lilian Belshaw, Democratic Services Manager on 0141-618-7112.

Nominations should be forwarded to the Head of Corporate Governance, Renfrewshire House, Cotton Street, Paisley, PA1 1TT on or before 20 April, 2017.

Head of Corporate Governance
Renfrewshire Council