

## **Item: 12**

**Statutory General Meeting of the Council: 16 May 2022.**

**Education, Leisure and Housing Committee.**

**Church and Teacher Representatives.**

**Report by Corporate Director for Strategy, Performance and Business Solutions.**

### **1. Purpose of Report**

To confirm appointment of church and teacher representatives nominated to serve on the Education, Leisure and Housing Committee.

### **2. Recommendations**

The Council is invited to note:

#### **2.1.**

That, in accordance with Section 124 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, the Council must appoint three religious representatives to its education committee.

#### **2.2.**

That, in accordance with Section 124(4)(a) of the 1973 Act, at least one of the three religious representatives must be a representative of the Church of Scotland, nominated in such a manner as may be determined by the General Assembly of the Church.

#### **2.3.**

That the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland has subsequently nominated Reverend Fraser Macnaughton to serve on the Education, Leisure and Housing Committee for the period to May 2027.

#### **2.4.**

That, following advertisement, two expressions of interest were received in respect of the remaining two church representatives, to be appointed in accordance with Section 124(4)(c) of the 1973 Act.

#### **2.5.**

That, as a result of the nominations process undertaken by the Education Service, two nominations have been received in respect of teacher representatives to serve on the Education, Leisure and Housing Committee for the period May 2022 to May 2027.

**It is recommended:**

**2.6.**

That, in accordance with Section 124(4)(a) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, Reverend Fraser Macnaughton be appointed to serve on the Education, Leisure and Housing Committee, for the period May 2022 to May 2027.

**2.7.**

That, in accordance with Section 124(4)(c) of the 1973 Act, the following individuals be appointed as church representatives to serve on the Education, Leisure and Housing Committee, for the period May 2022 to May 2027:

- Reverend Susan Kirkbride, representing the United Reformed Church.
- Marie Locke, representing the Church of Scotland.

**2.8.**

That the following teacher representatives be appointed to serve on the Education, Leisure and Housing Committee, for the period May 2022 to May 2027:

- Dr Mary Maley.
- Jo Hill.

### **3. Introduction**

**3.1.**

Membership of the Education, Leisure and Housing Committee includes three church representatives and two teacher representatives.

**3.2.**

Nominations confirmed at this meeting will be for the period up to the Local Government elections scheduled for May 2027.

### **4. Church Representatives**

**4.1.**

The Council, in accordance with Section 124 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, must appoint to the Education, Leisure and Housing Committee three religious representatives. Section 124(4)(a) allows for one representative of the Church of Scotland, to be nominated in such a manner as may be determined by the General Assembly of the Church.

**4.2.**

The General Assembly of the Church of Scotland has advised of the nomination of Reverend Fraser Macnaughton.

### **4.3.**

In appointing the two remaining representatives, in accordance with section 124(4)(c) of the 1973 Act, the Council is required to have regard to the comparative strength of all the churches and denominational bodies having duly constituted charges or other regularly appointed places of worship within Orkney.

### **4.4.**

The Council undertook a campaign seeking nominations for the two remaining religious representatives. Expressions of interest were received from the following:

- Reverend Susan Kirkbride, Peedie Kirk United Reformed Church, Palace Road, Kirkwall.
- Marie Locke, representing the Church of Scotland.

### **4.5.**

As one of the expressions of interest is from a representative of the Church of Scotland, advice was sought from the Council of Churches, who have confirmed that the Church of Scotland is the strongest denomination in Orkney in terms of membership and numbers of places of worship. Accordingly, it is competent for the Council to endorse the appointment of Ms Locke, if it so wishes.

### **4.6.**

The church representatives are full members of the Education, Leisure and Housing Committee, and the Council has previously resolved that they should have full voting rights.

## **5. Teacher Representatives**

### **5.1.**

Section 124 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, as introduced, provided that the Education Committee of the Council must appoint three religious representatives, and at least two teachers employed in educational establishments under the management of the authority. However, the Local Government etc. (Scotland) Act 1994 substituted Section 124 as introduced and replaced it with an alternative section, which did not specifically oblige the Council to appoint two teacher representatives.

### **5.2.**

However, existing Council policy, determined in 1996 and reconfirmed in 2007, is that teacher representatives should be appointed to the Education Committee, but with no voting rights. Recently, the appointments comprised one teacher from the primary sector and the other from secondary. For clarity, the teacher representatives are not representing education and/or teaching unions.

### **5.3.**

As a result of the nomination process undertaken by the Education Service, two nominations were received from teachers. Accordingly, it is recommended that the Council confirm the appointment of the undernoted teacher representatives on the Education, Leisure and Housing Committee:

- Dr Mary Maley.
- Jo Hill.

## **6. Corporate Governance**

This report relates to the Council complying with governance and procedural issues and therefore does not directly support and contribute to improved outcomes for communities as outlined in the Council Plan and the Local Outcomes Improvement Plan.

## **7. Financial Implications**

### **7.1.**

There are no financial implications arising directly as a result of the recommendations of this report.

### **7.2.**

All appointed church and teacher representatives are entitled to claim travel and subsistence for attendance at meetings or training courses.

## **8. Legal Aspects**

There are no legal implications arising directly as a result of the recommendations of this report.

## **9. Contact Officer**

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