

**APPOINTMENT OF PERSONS INTERESTED IN THE PROMOTION OF
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Section 31 of the Local Government etc. (Scotland) Act 1994 requires a local authority to appoint to any Committee of the Council to which the functions of the Council as education authority are delegated 3 persons interested in the promotion of religious education. Within Argyll and Bute Council the Community Services Committee has delegated authority to discharge the powers and duties as education authority.

A vacancy arose on the Committee earlier in the year due to the resignation of Rev William Crossan who served as a representative of the Church of Scotland. The Church of Scotland has subsequently nominated Mr William Stewart Shaw to fill this vacancy.

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Argyll & the Isles has also advised that Father David Connor has stood down as their Church Representative and that they have nominated Mrs Margaret Anderson as his replacement.

Recommendation

The Council is invited to:

- a) confirm the appointment of Mr William Stewart Shaw (as nominated by the Church of Scotland) and Mrs Margaret Anderson (as nominated by the Roman Catholic Church) as members of the Community Services Committee.
- b) agree to provide financial support to enable the religious representatives on the Community Service Committee to attend the annual training conference.

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2.0 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 Section 31 of the Local Government etc. (Scotland) Act 1994 requires a local authority to appoint to any Committee of the Council to which the functions of the Council as education authority are delegated 3 persons interested in the promotion of religious education. Within Argyll and Bute Council the Community Services Committee has delegated authority to discharge the powers and duties as education authority.

The Council has received nominations from both the Church of Scotland and the Roman Catholic Church to take up two of these positions following recent resignations.

The Council is invited to confirm the arrangements for these appointments.

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 The Council is invited to:
- a) confirm the appointment of Mr William Stewart Shaw (as nominated by the Church of Scotland) and Mrs Margaret Anderson (as nominated by the Roman Catholic Church) as members of the Community Services Committee.
 - b) agree to provide financial support to enable the religious representatives on the Community Service Committee to attend the annual training conference.

4.0 DETAIL

- 4.1 Section 31 of the Local Government etc. (Scotland) Act 1994 requires a local authority to appoint to any Committee of the Council to which the functions of the Council as education authority are delegated 3 persons interested in the promotion of religious education. Within Argyll and Bute Council the Community Services Committee has delegated authority to discharge the powers and duties as education authority. When the Committee is considering matters relating to the education function of the Council the three persons appointed will be voting members. On occasion there be also be an invitation to attend Council meeting when considering education matters.

- 4.2 A vacancy arose on the Committee earlier in the year due to the resignation of Rev William Crossan who served as a representative of the Church of Scotland. The Church of Scotland has subsequently nominated Mr William Stewart Shaw to fill this vacancy.
- 4.3 The Roman Catholic Diocese of Argyll & the Isles has also advised that Father David Connor has stood down as their Church Representative on the Committee and that they have nominated Mrs Margaret Anderson as his replacement.
- 4.4 The Council has a further vacancy for a Scottish Episcopal Church representative and the Scottish Episcopal Church have been written to on numerous occasions asking for a nomination but no reply has been received to date.
- 4.5 The Church of Scotland, together with the Scottish Catholic Education Service, hold training Conferences for all church representatives on an annual basis and all church representatives are expected to attend in order to benefit from this form of professional development. In the past local authorities have encouraged and given financial support to allow their church representatives to attend and existing budgetary provision has been made for this. The Church of Scotland are seeking confirmation that this support will continue.

5.0 CONCLUSION

The nomination ensures Council is in a position to meet its statutory requirements in respect of Section 31 of the Local Government Act.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 Policy – In keeping with the Councils Constitution
- 6.2 Financial – Travel and subsistence costs and training costs will be met
- 6.3 from existing budgets
- 6.4 Legal – Section 31 of the Local Government etc (Scotland) Act 1994
- 6.5 HR - None
- 6.6 Equalities - None
- 6.7 Risk - None
- Customer Service - None

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APPENDICES - none