From: Penny Smith-Orr – Religious Education Consultant
Joel Cook – Head of Democratic Services

To: **Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education –** 25 November 2026

Subject: **Review of the Kent SACRE Constitution and Terms of Reference.**

Classification: **Unrestricted**

Electoral Division: All

Summary:
This report presents the current Kent SACRE Constitution as the first step in the review process to ensure that it remains fit for purpose.

Recommendation:
The SACRE is asked to consider and comment on the current Kent SACRE Constitution and Terms of Reference, and to suggest any amendments for consideration as part of the review.

1. Introduction

1.1 The National Association of Standing Advisory Councils on Religious Education suggests that the constitution should be reviewed every four years or sooner if there is a change in legislation or the religious demographics of the area.

1.2 The constitution was last amended in 2023 with a update to include a Humanist representative in the SACRE membership.

2. Decision making and next steps

2.1 Kent County Council is required to establish, maintain and support the SACRE to discharge the SACRE's statutory functions.

2.2 All four Groups that constitute the SACRE must agree to any updates to the Constitution and Terms of Reference.

2.3 Amendments to the Constitution and Terms of Reference are to be determined through the Council's executive decision-making process by the appropriate Cabinet Member. However, any fundamental or substantial changes to be reflected within the Constitution or involving any decision-making arrangements may require determination by Full Council.

2.4 Members of SACRE are asked to consider the existing document and put forward any suggested amendments for consideration by the Council's legal department and the Executive.

2.5 In the event that specific changes are suggested and may be adopted, an updated draft Constitution and Terms of Reference would be brought to a future meeting of the SACRE for consideration and endorsement. Any required changes would then be subject to consideration and approvals by the Executive and/or Full Council as appropriate.

3. Financial Implications

3.1 No significant costs are expected to arise from the review of the constitution.

4. Legal implications

4.1 Periodic review of the constitution reflects good governance and best practice.

5. Equalities implications

5.1 No adverse implications are expected at the time of writing.

6. Recommendation:

The SACRE is asked to consider and comment on the current Kent SACRE Constitution and Terms of Reference, and to suggest any amendments for consideration as part of the review.

7. Appendices

Appendix 1: Kent SACRE Constitution and Terms of Reference.

Appendix 2: NASACRE Advice on Writing a Constitution

Appendix 3: Another Example SACRE Constitution - Newham

8. Contact details

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