

Section 7 – Joint Committees and Working Groups Involving Members

7.1 Cambridgeshire Police and Crime Panel

7.1.1 The local authorities in the Cambridgeshire Police area are required to establish a police and crime panel. The role of the Panel is to scrutinise the Police and Crime Commissioner particularly his annual budget and the Police & Crime Plan.

7.1.2 The Council appoints three members to sit on the Panel.

7.2 Combined Fire Authority

7.2.1 The Council has four seats on the Combined Fire Authority, and the County Council has thirteen. Each Council appoints its quota of members directly by the Council, so the Council's seats are allocated by full Council. The appointments must be made with regard to the proportionality of the declared political groups across both Councils.

7.2.2 The Fire Authority provides fire/public protection services for the Council and County Councils' areas.

7.3 School Organisation Committee

7.3.1 The Council has seven Member seats in the 'LEA Group' upon the School Organisation Committee, appointed by the procedure outlined in the Delegations to the Cabinet Member for Education, Skills and University. The Committee also has seven school representatives within the 'schools group' (3 secondary, 3 primary and 1 special), together with representatives from the Church of England and Roman Catholic Dioceses and the Learning and Skills Council. It must meet at least once a year to agree the School Organisation Plan.

7.3.2 Its terms of reference are, in summary:

- (a) To approve the LA's draft School Organisation Plan.
- (b) To consider any proposals by the Adjudicator for modification to the draft School Organisation Plan.
- (c) To consider any subsequent proposals for change to school organisation from the LEA or another proposer.

7.4 SACRE (Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education)

7.4.1 SACRE is made up of four Committees: LEA Representatives; Teacher Representatives; Church of England Representatives; and representatives of Christian and other religions and denominations, reflecting the religious traditions of the Council's area. The LEA representatives may, but do not have to, reflect political proportionality. The Council has five elected member representatives on the 'LEA committee', appointed by the procedure outlined in the Delegations to the Cabinet Member for Education, Skills and University.

7.4.2 Its terms of reference are:

- (a) To advise the LEA about matters related to collective worship in schools.

- (b) To advise the LEA about, and require the LEA to review, its agreed syllabus for teaching religious education.
- (c) To determine applications from headteachers that their school be released wholly or partly from the requirement for their collective worship to be broadly Christian in character.
- (d) To publish an annual report of its work.
- (e) To advise the LEA about religious education teaching methods and training for teachers.
- (f) To monitor inspection reports about religious education, collective worship and spiritual/moral/cultural/social development.
- (g) To consider complaints about provision and delivery of religious education and collective worship, where referred to it by the LEA.

7.5 Schools Forum

7.5.1. The Schools Forum is a requirement of the Education Act 2002. The forum encompasses 15 members representing the following groups:

- (a) Roman Catholic Diocesan Board member
- (b) Church of England Diocesan Board member
- (c) Representative from the Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership
- (d) Special School members
- (e) Secondary School members
- (f) Primary School members

7.5.2 The Diocesan representatives are identified by asking each Diocesan Board at 7.6.1(a) and (b) above to nominate a member.

7.5.3 The school representatives are elected from among nominees, in the following manner:

- (a) each school will be required to provide one nominee for election to the forum, but the individual nominated must be either the headteacher or a governor of that school;
- (b) school representatives will be elected from among the nominees in the following manner:
 - (i) Votes will be allocated to schools rather than individuals within that school
 - (ii) It is for the school governors in conjunction with the headteacher to determine how they exercise their votes
 - (iii) schools may only vote for nominees from schools within their particular representational group (see paragraph 7.5.1 above)
 - (iv) Each school will have the same number of votes allocated to it as the number of representatives who will be elected from its representational group (see paragraph 7.5.1 above).

7.6 Working Groups Involving Members

7.6.1 Working groups, review teams and advisory groups are established from time to time, for specific purposes and shall be time limited. They will only be established when the matter cannot be undertaken by a relevant Scrutiny Committee. Meetings of such groups will be held in private, with the exception of evidence gathering sessions with key witnesses, which the public will be invited to observe, unless the subject matter is considered to be of a sensitive nature, in which case it may not be possible to hold the

evidence gathering session in public. They usually fall into one of the following categories:

(a) Advisory groups relating to Executive Functions

Usually established to advise a Cabinet Member about an issue or subject area. The terms of reference and membership are specified by the Executive.

(b) Task & Finish Groups

Small groups of Members appointed by a Scrutiny Committee or Scrutiny Commission for the purpose of advising the parent committee about either:

- (i) an in-depth policy review
- (ii) performance monitoring
- (iii) responding to a major policy consultation from the Executive.

The terms of reference and purpose are specified by the relevant Scrutiny Committee or Scrutiny Commission.

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