

5. **Religious Education Council (REC):** SACRE's professional adviser is an elected board member of the REC, which is an umbrella organisation bringing together many organisations with an interest in religious education. The Second Regular General Meeting (SRGM) of the year is taking place on 16 November. The general meetings bring together representatives of all the constituent organisations. Since the COVID-19 pandemic these have been virtual meetings. The REC has a new chair – Sarah Lawn-Cawte and vice chair – Ed Pawson. Professor Trevor Cooling completed his term of service as chair of the REC during this critical period where the REC is taking forward the recommendations of the Commission on RE (CORE) report.

6. **Association of Religious Education Inspectors Advisers and Consultants (AREIAC):** The Primary Adviser is the joint chair of AREIAC currently. She and the secondary adviser attended the national AREIAC conference in July and discussed approaches to Agreed Syllabi and curriculum making in RE, along with hearing from the Ofsted lead for RE, Richard Kueh, about the recent Ofsted Research Review in RE. The secondary adviser has also set up a research group for AREIAC to consider relevant research and to contribute to research going forward.

REQUIRED CORPORATE AND LEGAL INFORMATION:

Links to the Strategic Plan

Hampshire maintains strong and sustainable economic growth and prosperity:	yes
People in Hampshire live safe, healthy and independent lives:	yes
People in Hampshire enjoy a rich and diverse environment:	yes
People in Hampshire enjoy being part of strong, inclusive communities:	yes

Section 100 D - Local Government Act 1972 - background documents

The following documents discuss facts or matters on which this report, or an important part of it, is based and have been relied upon to a material extent in the preparation of this report. (NB: the list excludes published works and any documents which disclose exempt or confidential information as defined in the Act.)

Document

Location

None

EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT:

1. Equality Duty

The County Council has a duty under Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 ('the Act') to have due regard in the exercise of its functions to the need to:

- Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and any other conduct prohibited by or under the Act with regard to the protected characteristics as set out in section 4 of the Act (age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation);
- Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic within section 149(7) of the Act (age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation) and those who do not share it;
- Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic within section 149(7) of the Act (see above) and persons who do not share it.

Due regard in this context involves having due regard in particular to:

- The need to remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic that are connected to that characteristic;
- Take steps to meet the needs of persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic that are different from the needs of persons who do not share it;
- Encourage persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity in which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.

2. Equalities Impact Assessment:

Living Difference IV, the proposed locally agreed syllabus for religious education recommended for adoption at this meeting, has an interest in equalities at its heart. A high-quality religious education taught according to Living Difference IV seeks to contribute to the elimination of discrimination, harassment and victimisation especially and directly with regard to the protected characteristics of race and religion. Further through experiencing a high-quality religious education taught according to Living Difference IV there is the intention to mitigate xenophobia of all kinds thus fostering good relations. IN the revision of the locally agreed syllabus equalities in relation to race and religion have been taken into account through examining the way religious and other orientations on life are presented in the classroom.