

## **SLOUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**REPORT TO:** CABINET **DATE:** 16th July, 2012

**CONTACT OFFICER:** Catherine Meek, Deputy Borough Secretary  
**(For all Enquiries)** 01753 875013

**WARD(S):** All

**PORTFOLIO:** Education and Children's Services, Cllr Natasa Pantelic

### **PART I** **NON-KEY DECISION**

#### **REVIEW OF THE LOCALLY AGREED SYLLABUS FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

1. **Purpose of Report**

This report seeks the approval of the Cabinet to the revised Slough Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education which has been recommended by the Agreed Syllabus Conference for adoption as the Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education in Slough schools, with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> September, 2012 for a period of five years.

2. **Recommendation**

The Cabinet is requested to resolve that the revised Locally Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education as now submitted be adopted as the Agreed Syllabus for use in Slough Community and Foundation schools for a period of five years from 1<sup>st</sup> September, 2012.

3. **Community Strategy Priorities**

- Celebrating Diversity, Enabling inclusion
- Adding years to Life and Life to years

4. **Other Implications**

(a) **Financial**

The cost of printing, publishing and circulating the revised Syllabus will be met from the existing budget. In addition, there will be costs in respect of launching the new Syllabus into schools. These costs will also be met through existing budgets.

(b) **Risk Management**

There are no risk management implications arising from this report.

(c) **Human Rights Act and Other Legal Implications**

Section 375 and Schedule 31 of the Education Act 1996 requires a Local Authority to review its Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education every five years. For this purpose, the Local Authority is required to establish an Agreed Syllabus Conference

which reviews the Syllabus and formally recommends a revised Syllabus to the Local Authority for adoption.

There are no Human Rights Act implications arising from this report.

## 5. **Supporting Information**

- 5.1 Religious Education in community schools and foundation schools not of a religious character should be taught in accordance with the Locally Agreed Syllabus recommended by the Agreed Syllabus Conference to the Local Authority.
- 5.2 The Locally Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education must be reviewed every five years. The current Syllabus was reviewed during the 2005/2006 Academic Year and introduced from September 2006.
- 5.3 Section 375 and Schedule 31 of the Education Act 1996 requires the establishment of an Agreed Syllabus Conference to oversee the Syllabus review. Membership of the Conference in Slough comprises the members of the Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE) which includes representatives of local faith groups, the Church of England, teacher representatives and elected Members. The review formally began at the first meeting of the Agreed Syllabus Conference on 12<sup>th</sup> October 2011. At this meeting, the Conference agreed that all six Berkshire Authorities should work together on the review.
- 5.4 The revised Syllabus has been agreed across the six Berkshire Authorities and teachers and representatives from faith groups have been fully involved in its composition. The revised Syllabus aims to help pupils studying RE learn about religion and learn from religion. It has been structured around the themes “Believing, Behaving and Belonging”, which correspond to a set of questions teachers and pupils will use to explore different faiths.
- 5.5 The final draft of the new Syllabus was submitted to the Agreed Syllabus Conference on 18<sup>th</sup> June, 2012 when it was agreed to recommend the Syllabus to the Cabinet for formal adoption. Subject to the decision of this meeting, the new Syllabus will be formally launched at a joint training day with RE staff from both Slough and the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead.

A copy of the Syllabus can be made available on request to Democratic Services.

## 6. **Conclusion**

Cabinet is now asked to formally approve the revised Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education for introduction into Slough’s schools from 1<sup>st</sup> September, 2012.

## 7. **Appendices**

A copy of the revised Syllabus has been published within the Appendices Pack II.

## 8. **Background Papers**

Agendas and Minutes of the Agreed Syllabus Conference of 12<sup>th</sup> October 2011, 8<sup>th</sup> February 2012 and 18<sup>th</sup> June, 2012.