

Appointment of the Church of Scotland Representative in Education Matters - Report by Director, Resources**1 Purpose of Report**

The purpose of this report is to advise the Cabinet of the appointment of Mrs Elizabeth Morton as the new Church of Scotland Representative in education matters.

2 Background

Following the resignation of the Reverend Ruth Halley, as the Church of Scotland representative in education matters as a result of her move away from Midlothian, the Council at its meeting on 21 August 2018 endorsed the nomination from the Church of Scotland of Mrs Elizabeth Morton of Dalkeith, as their replacement representative.

3 Code of Conduct and Disqualification

It should be noted that all Religious Representatives are asked to confirm that they will comply with the general terms of the Councillors' Code of Conduct issued by the Standards Commission for Scotland. They are also asked to confirm that there is nothing in Section 31 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (grounds for disqualification), which would prevent them from serving on the Cabinet.

4 Report Implications**4.1 Resource**

There are no resource implications arising directly from this report.

4.2 Risk

There are no risk implications arising directly from this report.

4.3 Single Midlothian Plan and Business Transformation

Themes addressed in this report:

- ☐ Community safety
- ☐ Adult health, care and housing
- ☒ Getting it right for every Midlothian child
- ☐ Improving opportunities in Midlothian
- ☐ Sustainable growth
- ☐ Business transformation and Best Value
- ☐ None of the above

4.4 Key Priorities within the Single Midlothian Plan

Not applicable

4.5 Impact on Performance and Outcomes

The religious representatives support the decision making and scrutiny function of the Cabinet in relation to education matters and as such positively impact of the performance and outcomes of the Council in this area.

4.6 Adopting a Preventative Approach

Not applicable.

4.7 Involving Communities and Other Stakeholders

The appointment to this position will ensure continued community and religious representation and involvement with the decision making process within the Cabinet in relation to education matters.

4.8 Ensuring Equalities

The religious representative role is designed to provide a balanced approach in relation to the decision making process and as such supports the 'protected characteristic' of religion as defined within the Equality Act 2010.

4.9 Supporting Sustainable Development

Not applicable.

4.10 IT Issues

Not applicable.

5 Recommendations

The Cabinet is invited to note the appointment of Mrs Elizabeth Morton as the Church of Scotland's new representative in education matters.

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