

MOTION TO FULL COUNCIL
Wednesday 24 April 2019

Motion on the voting rights of religious representatives on the Lifelong Learning Committee

Background

Currently the Council is required under the terms of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 to have three religious representatives on any committee established by the Council to discharge their responsibilities as an education authority.

In the case of Perth & Kinross Council this is the Lifelong Learning Committee. The Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 sets out that the three religious representatives shall comprise: one nominated by the Church of Scotland; one nominated by the Catholic Church; and one appointed by the Council taking regard for the next largest religion (Christian Other at the time of the last census) in Perth & Kinross.

A Scottish Government spokesperson recently clarified the Scottish Government's interpretation of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 in recent press articles where they state, "where an education authority appoints a committee to discharge their functions, the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 requires councils to appoint members to that committee, including religious representatives." they go on to state "voting rights on committees are a matter for each local authority".

Proposed Changes

In line with the above clarification statement by the Scottish Government, the following is proposed:

That the Council agrees to amend the Scheme of Administration with effect from 1st May 2019 to agree that only elected members of the Council with a mandate from the electorate should be allowed to vote on the Lifelong Learning Committee.

Implementation

The Council instructs the Head of Legal & Governance to implement the agreed changes to all relevant Council documentation so that they take effect from the 1st May 2019.

Proposed by Councillor Xander McDade

Seconded by Councillor Mike Barnacle