



DERBY CITY COUNCIL

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S COMMISSION 25 JULY 2006

Report of the Corporate Director of Corporate and Adult Social Services

Other Faiths Voting Representation

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. To decide the response to this request of the Minority Ethnic Communities Advisory Committee, MECAC:

to ask the Education Commission to consider requesting an amendment to the Council Constitution to change the make up of the Education Commission, to enable more community representatives to be appointed with voting rights.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 2.1 On 30 March 2006 MECAC received a report on the role of the Education Commission. The minute is set out at Appendix Two.
- 2.2 There would not appear to be a legal impediment to increasing the number of other faith representatives but it would require full Council approval to revise Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rule 6.
- 2.3 It is important to note that the request from MECAC was in relation to the former Education Commission. Because the successor Commission is the Children and Young People Commission, with a wider purview, all the issues of "split" voting rights as set out in the preceding item would apply.
- 2.4 Additionally, this Commission is already the largest with, for education purposes, 16 voting participants (11 councillors and 5 statutory added members). An expansion in numbers might be challenging in terms of maintaining efficiency and effectiveness.
- 2.5 The historic reason for voting representation by the Church of England and Roman Catholic was their continuing role as operators of schools, rather than as community representatives.

- 2.6 The “other faiths” voting member, like the parent governor representatives, attends in a representative capacity. It is open to any interested member of MECAC or the wider public to look at the meeting documents of the Commission during the five clear days ahead of a meeting and, if they have views, to contact the other faiths representative. Although the other faiths representative is elected through the Derby Race Equality Council, it would also be open to MECAC to request periodic reports back from him/her.

For more information contact:	01322 255596 e-mail rob.davison@derby.gov.uk
Background papers:	None
List of appendices:	Appendix 1 – Implications Appendix 2 – 30 March 2006 MECAC Minute Extract

Appendix 1

IMPLICATIONS

Financial

1. None.

Legal

2. The Council Constitution closely follows the DCLG guidance which gives effect to Section 21 of, and Schedule 1 to, the Local Government Act 2000. This includes voting representation for Church of England and Roman Catholic nominees, as both operate schools, school governors and for other faiths.

Personnel

3. None directly arising.

Equalities impact

4. The MECAC minute does not explain how community representation will in itself produce better engagement with hard-to-reach groups so that services can be honed to meet the needs of those who do not take them up.

Corporate Priorities

5. This is an organisational matter.

MINORITY ETHNIC COMMUNITIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE
30 MARCH 2006

82/05 Education Commission

Councillor MacDonald, Chair of the Education Commission gave a presentation on the function of the Commission, the Education remit and past and current work of the Commission.

George Mighty asked about community representatives on the Commission and was informed that Tony Walsh was the multi-faith representative. He felt that further representation of local communities was required on the commission as education was such an important issue, but that any representatives would need to have a vote, which under the current constitution was not possible.

Resolved to ask the Education Commission to consider requesting an amendment to the Council Constitution to change the make up of the Education Commission, to enable more community representatives to be appointed with voting rights.