

# North Lanarkshire Council Report

## Education and Families Committee

approval  noting

**Ref** AR/EH

**Date** 22/02/22

## Religious Representative

**From** Head of Legal and Democratic Solutions

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### Executive Summary

The report advises Members of the Committee of (1) the resignation from the Committee of Mr. William Cunningham, the Roman Catholic Church representative, and (2) the nomination which has been received from the Diocese of Motherwell to fill the consequential vacancy for an appointee by the Roman Catholic Church.

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### Recommendations

The Committee is recommended to:-

- (1) accept the resignation of Mr. William Cunningham as the appointee of the Roman Catholic Church on the Education and Families Committee, and
- (2) agree that it recommend to the Council that the appointment of Mr. Gerry McCormack, as the new appointee by the Roman Catholic Church on the Education and Families Committee in place of Mr. Cunningham, be approved.

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### The Plan for North Lanarkshire

**Priority** Enhance participation, capacity, and empowerment across our communities

**Ambition statement** (20) Improve the involvement of communities in the decisions, and development of services and supports, that affect them

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#### 1. Background

- 1.1 Where the Council constitutes a Committee to deal with education issues, there is a statutory requirement to appoint, as members of the Committee (a) one representative of the Church of Scotland, nominated in such a manner as may be determined by the General Assembly of the Church; (b) one representative of the Roman Catholic Church, nominated in such a manner as may be determined by the Scottish Hierarchy of the Church, and (c) one person in the selection of whom the Council shall have regard, taking account of the representation of the Church of Scotland and Roman Catholic Church, to the comparative strength within the Council's area and of the Churches and denominational bodies having duly constituted charges or other regularly appointed

places of worship there, the statutory provision accordingly applies to the Education and Families Committee.

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## **2. Report**

- 2.1 On 15 December 2021 communication was received from the Diocese of Motherwell intimating that Mr. William Cunningham, the current appointee by the Roman Catholic Church on the Committee, had resigned from that position.
- 2.2 The Chancellor of the Diocese of Motherwell has subsequently nominated Mr. Gerry McCormack to undertake the position vacated by Mr. Cunningham.
- 2.3 The Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 obliges the Council to accept the nomination made by either the Roman Catholic Church or the Church of Scotland, and accordingly Mr McCormack has taken up his position on the Committee with immediate effect.
- 2.4 As this is a Committee appointment, and requires formal approval by North Lanarkshire Council, the Committee is therefore asked to recommend to the Council, at its meeting on 31 March 2022, that the appointment of Mr. McCormack be approved.

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## **3. Public Sector Equality Duty and Fairer Scotland Duty**

- 3.1 There are none.

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## **4. Impact**

### **4.1 Financial impact**

There is no financial impact.

### **4.2 HR policy / Legislative impact**

This appointment is undertaken in accordance with the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973.

### **4.3 Technology / Digital impact**

There is no technology/digital impact.

### **4.4 Environmental impact**

There is no environmental impact.

### **4.5 Communications impact**

There is no communications impact.

### **4.6 Risk impact**

Should the Committee, and the Council, be minded not to approve the appointment as detailed in the report, it is at risk of legal challenge due to non compliance with the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973.

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**5. Measures of success**

5.1 Good governance standards.

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**6. Supporting documents**

6.1 None.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. C. C.', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

**Head of Legal and Democratic Solutions**