

COMMITTEE:	East Lothian Council
MEETING DATE:	9 December 2025
BY:	Depute Chief Executive – Resources and Economy
REPORT TITLE:	Appointment of Religious Representative to the Education and Children’s Services Committee
REPORT STATUS:	Public

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To appoint a religious representative to the Education and Children’s Services Committee.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

Members are recommended to:

- 2.1 Approve the appointment of Reverend Keith Mills of the Baptist Church of Dunbar as a religious representative on the Education & Children’s Services Committee.

3 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 In accordance the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, the Council is required to appoint three representatives to the Education and Children’s Services Committee who represent local religious communities in the area, one of whom must represent the Church of Scotland, one of whom must represent the Roman Catholic Church, and one of whom who should represent another church or denominational body within the area.
- 3.2 In 2022, following the Local Government Election, the Church of Scotland and the Roman Catholic Church each nominated representatives to serve on the Education Committee (now the Education and Children’s Services Committee). The third position on the Committee has been vacant since 2018, despite several attempts to

attract a representative, through advertisements in the local press and on social media. The vacancy was advertised most recently in September 2025, and on this occasion four notes of interest were received. One of those interested parties subsequently withdrew their note of interest, one did not meet the criteria as set out in the legislation, and one was happy to step aside to allow the remaining candidate's nomination to proceed.

- 3.3 The remaining candidate is Reverend Keith Mills, who has been the minister of the Baptist Church in Dunbar for 34 years. He and his wife are also foster carers, having looked after 130 children and young people over the past 35 years.
- 3.4 Members are therefore asked to approve the appointment of Reverend Mills to the Education & Children's Services Committee.

4 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 None

5 RESOURCE AND OTHER IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Finance: None
- 5.2 Human Resources: None
- 5.3 Other (e.g. Legal/IT): None
- 5.4 Risk: None

6 INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 6.1 ***Select the statement that is appropriate to your report by placing an 'X' in the relevant box.***

An Integrated Impact Assessment screening process has been undertaken and the subject of this report does not affect the wellbeing of the community or have a significant impact on: equality and human rights; tackling socio-economic disadvantages and poverty; climate change, the environment and sustainability; the Council's role as a corporate parent; or the storage/collection of personal data.

or

The subject of this report has been through the Integrated Impact Assessment process and impacts have been identified as follows:

Subject	Impacts identified (Yes, No or N/A)
Equality and human rights	
Socio-economic disadvantage/poverty	
Climate change, the environment and sustainability	
Corporate parenting and care-experienced young people	
Storage/collection of personal data	
Other	

[Enter information on impacts that have been identified]

The Integrated Impact Assessment relating to this report has been published and can be accessed via the Council's website:

https://www.eastlothian.gov.uk/info/210602/equality_and_diversity/12014/integrated_impact_assessments

7 APPENDICES

7.1 None.

8 BACKGROUND PAPERS

8.1 Letters/emails in support of interested parties.

9 AUTHOR AND APPROVAL DETAILS

Report Author(s)

Name	Lel Gillingwater
Designation	Team Manager – Democratic & Licensing
Tel/Email	lgillingwater@eastlothian.gov.uk / 01620 827292
Date	26 November 2025

Head of Service Approval

Name	Hayley Barnett
Designation	Head of Corporate Support
Confirmation that IIA and other relevant checks (e.g. finance/legal) have been completed	Yes
Approval Date	26 November 2026