

GENERAL SYNOD**The Future of the Church Urban Fund****Note by the Archbishops' Council**

1. In November 2000 General Synod considered the report of a review, chaired by the Bishop of Bradford, of the Church Urban Fund (CUF). The ten principal recommendations of the review, which warmly commended the achievements of CUF, are summarised at Annex A.
2. Six of those ten recommendations were addressed to CUF itself, the remaining four to the wider Church. In the motion carried at the end of its debate (the text of which is at Annex B), Synod asked the Archbishops' Council to report to it by July 2002 on the implementation of the recommendations of the review. This report is intended to meet that request.
3. Since the November 2000 debate, members of the Archbishops' Council, led by Dr Philip Giddings, have been involved in discussion with the Trustees of the Fund (of which the Vice-Chairman is Mr Stephen O'Brien) and the Urban Bishops' Panel chaired by the Bishop of Leicester, to map out an agreed way forward for the Fund. These discussions have resulted in two substantial papers, which the Synod is now invited to consider.
4. The first paper – 'The Urban Renaissance and the Church of England: A discussion paper' (GS 1446) – is intended to set out the wider context in which the future of CUF must be seen. The Fund is only one, though an important, element in the shaping of the Church's mission and ministry in urban areas. The paper sets out to chart recent changes – social and in terms of governmental policy – affecting urban communities and in the light of these changes to ask how the Church can best re-model its ministry to these areas in future. The proposals in the paper are the subject of item X on the July 2002 Synod agenda, the debate on which will be introduced by the Bishop of Leicester.
5. The second paper – 'Resourcing Urban Ministry and Mission: Plans and Proposals for the Church Urban Fund, 2002-2010' (GS Misc 674) – has been produced by the Trustees of the Church Urban Fund, in dialogue with the Urban Bishops' Panel and the Archbishops' Council. The

Trustees are legally responsible for the Fund and this paper sets out their plans for the Fund's immediate future, which both the Council and the Panel commend. In summary, these are:

- The original fund will now be fully committed by 2007. This implies grant approvals of approximately £3 million a year in the period 2002-2007.
- In close liaison with the wider Church the trustees will seek to re-create a substantial body of capital through a fund-raising campaign in the period 2004-2006.
- Dioceses which wish to take on greater responsibility than hitherto for planning and prioritising the distribution of grants will be encouraged and enabled to do so.
- In order to assist dioceses with their planning, the trustees will give them, if requested, an indication of the level of resources that each can reasonably expect to receive over the three-year period 2003-2005.
- The trustees will administer grants through a single programme not, as recently, through two separate operations, 'local' and 'developmental'.
- It is expected that dioceses and parishes will increasingly wish to use grants from CUF to lever in matched funding from public sector sources. CUF may fund advice and training in this regard, if requested and if considered appropriate.
- Whilst the trustees will continue to conduct the affairs of CUF as an independent charity, they will at the same time seek to maintain close contact and relationships with the wider Church.

6. The critical issue facing the Church as a whole in relation to CUF's future is that the Fund was originally designed not to be ongoing but to have spent out its resources by 2010. If grant-making is to continue at a rate of £3 million a year, the Fund will be fully committed by 2007. If, therefore, the Church now wishes the Fund to have a continuing life, a further major effort to raise additional funds from both the Church and non-Church sources will be necessary between 2004-06.
7. Synod members will be acutely aware, as is the Council, of the other financial pressures on the Church, not only in relation to the rising costs of ministry but such other desirable objectives as church schools and youth evangelism. The Council does not think it would be sensible to ask Synod and dioceses to commit themselves firmly now to raise funds for CUF in addition to these other causes. Nonetheless the Council does believe that the continuation of CUF beyond 2007 is highly desirable if it can be achieved and that it is therefore right to ask Synod to indicate if it agrees with this by inviting Synod to approve the development of specific fund-raising proposals. A report on these proposals would be brought to Synod in 2003 – 04 so that, after discussion in dioceses, Synod could on behalf of the Church decide whether, and if so how, the Church could play its part in them.
8. The Council therefore invites the Synod to endorse the approach to the future of CUF suggested by the Fund's Trustees in GS Misc ... and in particular the preparation of specific proposals on a fund-raising campaign during 2004-06 to try to guarantee the future of the Fund, these proposals to be put to Synod in 2003 – 04 for decision as to the Church's part in the intended campaign.

On behalf of the Archbishops' Council

Church House, SW1
May 2002

+George Cantuar:

Recommendations (extracted from Chapter 8, GS Misc 622)

- 8.3 There is a continuing role for a Church Urban Fund, with the core purpose of providing funds and other support to help churches address the outcomes of multiple deprivation and exercise a confident community ministry in UPAs.
- 8.4 CUF should strengthen its role in supporting those acting at diocesan or regional level by:
- setting up a National Development Unit;
 - resourcing diocesan or regional Priority Action Groups.
- 8.5 The aims of the National Development Unit should be to collate learning from CUF projects, network with national church, voluntary, public and private sector organisations, provide a national forum for church agencies; and research and develop resources to guide and support the local mission and ministry in UPAs.
- 8.6 The idea of Priority Action Groups should be explored and tested, as regionally or locality based consortia, which could include ecumenical and other allies, to develop regional/locality strategies; offer first-line support to local initiatives; network; access funding and possibly set up funds on a regional basis.
- 8.7 CUF should continue to operate the Local Project Grants Programme and Small Grants scheme.
- 8.8 CUF should find a better way of channelling its insights on racial justice issues back into the Church.
- 8.9 The main duty of the Trustees should be to manage the Fund to give maximum benefit to UPAs over an extended period of time. CUF should reduce its grantmaking and other expenditure forthwith to preserve remaining capital.
- 8.10 The Archbishops, House of Bishops and General Synod should give a high priority to the focused and effective development of Priority Action Groups and the more strategic approach they represent.
- 8.11 The Archbishops' Council should consider a structural role for CUF within the Church and World Division, with clearer lines of accountability to General Synod and parishes.

8.12 All new Church of England income-generating initiatives should weight their funding allocation to give priority to UPAs.

Motion approved at November 2002 General Synod

That this Synod

- (a) re-affirm the Church's continuing commitment and responsibility to ministry alongside the poor and marginalised wherever they may be, and especially in urban priority areas;
- (b) welcome initiatives by dioceses to develop a locally-based and coherent strategy for evangelism and justice in urban priority areas;
- (c) thank God for the achievement of the Church Urban Fund in partnership with dioceses in unleashing new hope in urban priority areas;
- (d) endorse the recommendations in paragraphs 13-17 of GS 1400 and invite the Trustees of the Church Urban Fund and the Archbishops' Council to pursue them, in consultation with dioceses; and
- (e) request a report on progress from the Archbishops' Council by the summer of 2002.