

GENERAL SYNOD

Report on the Archbishops' Council's Activities

Introduction

The Archbishops' Council presents this report on its activities since the General Synod Meeting in July 2022. It has met twice on 22 September, 6 and 7 December 2022.

Meeting of the Archbishops' Council, 22 September 2022, held by Zoom

1. The Council reflected on the life of **HM The Queen** following her death.
2. The Council discussed a number of items related to **Safeguarding**. This includes the interim support scheme, the Independent Safeguarding Board and a general update on the work of the National Safeguarding Team.
3. The Council engaged with the work on the Governance Review.
4. The Council was given an update on the National Burial Grounds Survey.
5. The Council discussed a number of **Financial Matters**, including work being undertaken by the Council in light of the inflation and energy crisis (there will be an opportunity to debate these issues at the General Synod). It also considered a number of funding plans such as Diocesan Investment Programme and funding plans for the Vision and Strategy.
6. The Council reviewed progress against the annual objectives as part of the **mid-year review**.
7. The Council approved the appointment of Louise Wills from the Legal Office as the **Deputy Joint Provincial Registrar**.
8. The Council approved the Terms of Reference for the sub-committee on Same Sex Marriage and Local Ecumenical Partnerships [deemed]

Meeting of the Archbishops' Council, 6 and 7 December 2022, held at High Leigh, Broxbourne

9. The Council discussed **Financial Matters**, including the recommendations for the stipend increases from 1 April 2023 and a proposal to revise the Parochial Fees Order. The Council approved the revised virement policy and Statement of Funding Proposals. The Council agreed to funding from the 2020-22 triennium to support TEIs with the cost of energy funding and support clergy retirement housing. The Council agreed support for funding in next triennium for work related to Net Zero Carbon.
10. The Council discussed a number of **Safeguarding** items, including a general update by the National Safeguarding Team, including an update on proposals for resourcing and prioritising the work of the team. The Council was updated on the work of the National Safeguarding Casework Management System. There was a discussion on the work on redress and the Independent Safeguarding Board. The Council approved the draft response to the recommendations from the Report of the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse. A number of

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these items will be brought for discussion at Synod in February.

11. The Council discussed the **Strategic Risk Register** and agreed the outline **Business Plan for 2023**.
12. The Council engaged with the **younger** element of the Vision and Strategy and requested work to give this greater prominence in future agendas of the Council.
13. The Council reviewed the proposals for **Resourcing Ministerial Formation** ahead of discussion at the General Synod.
14. The Council discussed an update from the Committee for Minority Ethnic Anglican Concerns and considered funding proposals related to **racial justice**.
15. The Council were given an update on work of the **Governance Review** ahead of the paper to the General Synod.
16. The Council noted an update on the work by the **Board Effectiveness sub-group**.
17. The Council approved a number of deemed items including the **Clergy Stipends Authority Report**, and extension to terms of office for **Strategic Investment Board** and an appointment from the Council to the **Business Committee**

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William Nye LVO
Secretary General

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